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Big move for U of A Wesley Foundation



This preliminary concept drawing depicts the main worship and meeting space of the new Wesley House at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Scheduled for completion in 2014, the 3,500-square-foot building also will include a full kitchen, prayer room, study room, library/conference room, offices, bathrooms and storage area.

ILLUSTRATION BY MILLER BOSKUS LACK ARCHITECTS, P.A.

Land swap creates path to campus ministry's new home

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

After a long wait and a lot of negotiation, the United Methodist campus ministry at the University of Arkansas is making a much-needed move.

Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013, brought the final worship service in the Chapel of the Cross, the 50-year-old Wesley Foundation building at 730 West Maple Street in Fayetteville. At the close of the service, worshipers processed about a half-mile to the corner of Lindell and Douglas Streets, [See LAND SWAP, page 8]

Traskwood UMC moves from dying to dynamic

BY DENNIS SCHICK
Special Contributor

As recently as the summer of 2012, Traskwood United Methodist Church—10 miles southwest of Benton—had an average attendance of half a dozen people each Sunday, and members wondered how much longer the church could stay open. By December—only six months later—it was averaging 25 each Sunday, a 400 percent turnaround.

For that and other reasons, Traskwood UMC, now with 34 members on their roll, was named a Church of the Year at the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference, for their improved measures of congregational vitality.

So what did Traskwood do to reverse their downward spiral, and what have they been doing lately?

"The simple answer is threefold," said the Rev. Danny Dunlap, who has spent two years pastoring the church. "Prayer, an open congregation and determination."

Focused prayer

Dunlap said that the congregation knew that it needed divine intervention to survive, so they became "prayer warriors."

"I asked my pastor friends to pray for us. We asked to be on every prayer list we could find," he said. "We even reached out for prayers on our webpage."

Dunlap preached a sermon on Jonah, challenging the core members of the church to become Jonahs in the Traskwood community. "To a person, members listened and were open to new ideas," he said. "They committed to take action."



Congregational Coach Marcia Reed, left, assisted by the Rev. Danny Dunlap, introduces the Alpha program during an after-worship luncheon meeting at Traskwood UMC Benton.

AUM PHOTO BY DENNIS SCHICK

One by one, two by two, former members returned and new members arrived. Every member—including new ones—became determined and persistent in inviting others. And when new people came, they felt the love of Christ.

The congregation feels and shows love and compassion. If you miss a Sunday, someone will call to see if you are OK. Between such personal

[See TRASKWOOD, page 12]

Connecting the dots takes time

BY CHARLES COOPER
Special Contributor

I do not send text messages. The chief reason I don't communicate via text: I do not want to produce a written document that I have not had time to edit.

I say a lot of embarrassing things. The words just leave my mouth like burps and sneezes. So it has happened years later that a few acquaintances have asked, "Didn't you say *so and so*?"

Because my memory, like everything else about me, is fallible, I can honestly reply, "I'm not sure that's what I said." If my accuser continues to insist, "Yes. Yes.

That is what you said." Then I can reply, as if I had burped or sneezed, "Excuse me."

This is not so with words on a page, particularly with an electronic page that cannot be wadded up and tossed away, but is stored as energy waiting to be released as flawless recollections on a screen. With written words, a person can say, "This is you, now and forever. Amen."

Never mind mitigating circumstances, such as, "I wrote that on a rainy day while driving down I-540 between Fayetteville and Bentonville at five o'clock in the afternoon." It doesn't matter. The words would be words, naked in the cruelest sense of the word. (As for texting and driving: Saying something stupid while doing something stupid is just a sad way of practicing what you preach).

Texting is careless. It is not a good way to write or to carry on a conversation.

Recently James Harter, a freshman at the University of

Arkansas, came to me and said that he wanted my help preparing a sermon, his first sermon. I offered to take him out to lunch (I always appreciated a free meal when I was a student), and we met at a catfish restaurant and talked about preaching.

I remember he told me a story, and then he told me what he wanted to say to the church. I said, "Tell the story. It's a better sermon."

"What about the Scripture?" he asked.

"Your story is about suffering and redemption," I said. "So in the sermon you wanted to preach, what was your text?"

"Noah."

"That'll work," I said. And it did. It was a fine sermon.

It takes time and reflection to connect the dots of words and living. That is what I do for hours in my office before I preach on a Sunday morning. It is what we do in the best conversations, connecting dot-story with dot-Scripture at dot-catfish restaurant. Texting does not allow for either time alone or person-to-person editing. That's why it leans so heavily on clichés, such as LOL and IMO, and why so many thoughtless and ugly things get passed around.

We need time alone. We need time to get the words we write right. We need time with each other, too. The words of conversation are invisible. They are spoken, and they disappear into our minds where they are interpreted, integrated into other ideas, and edited for days, years, a lifetime, even beyond a lifetime.

I love quoting my father and mother, my departed friends and professors. It brings them back to me. It continues our conversations. And yes, sometimes they talk back to me, seem to say, "Yes, but..." and "And..."

'We need time alone. We need time to get the words we write right. We need time with each other, too.'

In seminary, I came to appreciate how Scripture was born out of oral transmissions that evolved in conversations, person to person, generation to generation, and finally were written down, and after having been written down, they were edited, in a living, breathing process of expansions and reductions and expansions and reductions. Breathing.

My faith is that the breath comes from God, as it says in 2 Timothy 3:16. It comes to us in prayerful moments as it did to Moses on the mountain, or to Isaiah as he pattered about the temple doing his priestly tasks, and in conversations—say, between those two stubborn men with similar names, Elijah and Elisha, and think of Jesus and Mary.

It seems to me that when the breath does come, it has origins impossible to date and a destiny beyond time, for as John's Gospel puts it, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth" (John 3:8, KJV).

So if God does not text the holy Word to us, but breathes it across thousands of years, it would seem best for me to use my piddling time upon this earth to try and say things right, whether in my office alone or face-to-face with others—and you, too, over the years of your living and beyond.

The Rev. Cooper is a retired elder in the Arkansas Conference.



Charles Cooper



EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

Operating on a need-to-know basis

For a journalist, I do a horrible job of keeping up with the news.

Granted, I have a niche to serve, so I focus most of my news reading on the church-related beat. And for my own good, I try to take a half-day media fast every weekend (though I sometimes fail miserably, thanks to that oxymoron that is the stupid smartphone).

It seems that the more news I read, watch and listen to, the less I want to see and hear. Yes, I need to know about, and form my own understanding of, what's happening in the world. We all need to stay aware of what's going on around us.

But do we really need to keep up with Miley Cyrus? I admit, I haven't watched the footage of the MTV Video Music Awards; I've gathered the gist of what happened from the pervasive conversation about it. And from what I can tell, the main lesson there is that we all need to be more careful about where we focus our attention—Miley herself included, child of God that she is and we all are.

I need to know about what's going on in Syria and Egypt—not so I can form an opinion to deploy in a fierce social media debate, but so I may use it as a guide in how I pray for a hurting world.

I need to know about what's happening where I live, too—the good and the bad, as it's often all jumbled together.

And in the last part of August, I really needed to know about Antoinette Tuff.

On what she thought would be an ordinary day, the bookkeeper at a Decatur, Georgia elementary school averted disaster by convincing an armed man with a history of mental health issues to surrender to police. No one was injured.

Tuff, who has faced her own struggles in life, lived out her faith as she offered to stay with the gunman while he surrendered. She provided a line of communication with police. She shared with him of some of her own experiences, and told him that she loved him and was proud of him for surrendering.

I listened to the recording of the 911 call. This 15-minute piece of audio, not a certain clip from the Video Music Awards, bears replaying again and again, until everyone has heard what grace sounds like.

Near the end of the call, after the surrender had taken place, Tuff expressed how scared she had been. But in the moment, her words and actions showed the gunman that the power of love can overcome fear.

That's news we all need to hear.

To reach me, send an email to amforbus@arumc.org.



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Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Oct. 4	Sept. 18
Nov. 1	Oct. 17
Dec. 6	Nov. 19

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Be sure to recycle your copy of the *Arkansas United Methodist* when you're finished reading it (or share it with a friend).



GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

Pray. Simply pray. Just pray.

Sisters and Brothers of the Arkansas Conference,

Life is difficult and painful. Sometimes you experience this in the most personal ways imaginable. At other times you hurt more than you think is possible because someone you love is struggling. And almost every day, you see massive suffering, injustice, poverty and pain online, on TV and in the paper.

It's hard to live with pain like this. In fact, it can be a burden that breaks you. But you don't have to deal with it alone because God has sent you, me and everyone in the world that thing we know we need but can never get on our own—the gift of forgiving, healing, transforming, renewing, generous, compassionate and hopeful grace in his Son, Jesus Christ.

But you know just like I do that believing this and actually experiencing it are two very different things. And that's why I want to share what I always do when I struggle to follow Jesus' way of grace. Pray. Simply pray. Just pray.

*Lord,
It doesn't matter how bad the pain is.
How terrible the suffering becomes.
Or how horribly we treat each other.
Your love is always the greatest reality there is.
Period – no ifs, ands or buts.
It's unconditional.
Because you love us just the way we are.*

It's transformational.

Because you won't leave us the way we are.

It's personal.

Because you reach out in Jesus right into the middle of our real lives.

But, most of all, it's simply amazing.

Because you fill us with grace that fills us to overflowing.

So when things look bleak, help us to look for your grace.

When we're not sure what to do, empower us to trust it.

And when we wonder if there's any hope in our world, enable us share it.

Thank you, Lord.

Thank you.

We give you all honor, praise and glory through Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

May you experience Jesus' grace that changes everything about everything.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointment change has been announced since the deadline for the previous issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist*:

- Roger Simon - Parks UMC (Lay supply pastor), effective Aug. 18

To see pastoral appointment changes as they become official, visit arumc.org/appointments.

Would you



to receive daily reflections from Bishop Mueller?



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Choosing our story

BY MICHELLE MORRIS
Special Contributor

I have been thinking a great deal about stories lately. One reason for these thoughts: I have recently begun interacting with my new West Memphis mission field by teaching a course in World Literature at Mid-South Community College.

The thing about World Lit I is that it covers a tremendous length of human recorded history. We will read the most ancient of texts, *Gilgamesh*, which is dated as early as 1900 BCE, all the way through *Hamlet*, written by William Shakespeare around 1600 CE.

In addition to covering a time span of roughly 3,500 years, we also will study works from a wide geographic range: countries now known as Egypt, Japan, Saudi

Arabia, Greece, India, Italy, Israel/Palestine, France, China, Great Britain and Central America. A central goal of this course is to teach my students to discern cultural values of the communities who produced these works by using clues they find in what they read.

The assumption behind that goal is that we tell stories, in part, to pass on what we believe. We codify our values and our ways of life in the stories we tell. If we did not value the stories, we would cease to tell them.

Now, there are some problems with such an assumption, not the least of which is what we call the “accident of history”—i.e., perhaps something that was not highly valued survived anyway. But when we consider the expense of putting something on a tablet or scroll to pass on to others, that investment implies that someone, somewhere, valued it. The author of a work, and the community that preserved it, very likely saw a reflection of their culture within that work.

The other reason I am thinking

about stories is because of my role as a new pastor. I am currently in the business of collecting stories. I have a church history I am trying to learn. I have Sunday school class personalities to try to discern. I have members' lives I am trying to hear. I have a mission field I am trying to clarify.

To do all these things, I must listen to a multitude of stories. And the stories I am told tell me much more than the details of certain events. They share with me what all these people value—as in ethics. And they share with me how all these people value themselves—as in worth.

To some extent, our narratives are chosen for us. Sometimes we live where we live because someone (parents) or something (a job) moved us there. Sometimes we work where we work because those are the only opportunities around. We

‘Sometimes what we need most to inspire a new way of being is to begin to tell, and live, a new narrative.’

should not be so naïve as to think every decision someone makes is one that he or she has complete control in making.

But how we tell our narratives, and sometimes what our narratives can be, lie within our control. Sometimes what we need most to inspire a new way of being is to begin to tell, and live, a new narrative.

Jesus understood how narrative works. He did not give us a complicated theological treatise on the nature of the reign of God. Instead, he told us stories.

He talked about how a shepherd looks for lost sheep, and how the kingdom of God is like a mustard

seed that goes from a tiny dot to a huge bushy plant. He told us that his Father's house has many rooms, and one is waiting for his disciples. He told us a new story, one in which everyone mattered and there was space for everyone. He gave us stories that we could live into as we made them our own.

If you, your church or your community find yourselves in a “stuck” place, then maybe it is time to tell a new story. Tell your own story of love and loss, but also of hope and a future. And if you need a good place to start telling that story, remember that we have a whole collection of stories to get us going.

So take the Bible and read it in your place, and in your time. I expect you will find in it the things that you value—as in ethics—and the way you are also valued—as in worth—by God. Then take your new story out and share it with others, and give them the new story that you have: a new hope in God and for neighbor.

The Rev. Morris is a provisional elder in the Arkansas Conference, serving as associate pastor of First UMC West Memphis.



Letting freedom ring

The United Methodist Church's orientation for new district superintendents and directors of connectional ministry coincided with the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Those attending the orientation event in Lake Junaluska, N.C., on Aug. 28 took a break from their work to celebrate, 50 years to the moment after King proclaimed, "Let freedom ring," by tolling the bell at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center. Arkansas participants who tolled the bell included district superintendent the Rev. Mark Norman (left) and Bishop Gary Mueller (right).

COURTESY PHOTOS



YOUTH MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Quitman UMC steps out in faith, sees youth ministry grow



Youth from First UMC Quitman work at Gulf Shores State Park to clean amphitheater benches covered in grime from Hurricane Isaac. COURTESY PHOTO

In July, a team of 14 students and seven adults from Quitman United Methodist Church went out to spread the love of Christ in Gulf Shores, Ala. The group worked side-by-side with the Gulf Shores State Park staff to clean up an amphitheater that had been hit by Hurricane Isaac the year before.

As they began scrubbing benches, the team realized that showing the love of Christ required considerable elbow grease. The dirt had

soaked into every inch of the wood. But when they had finished the task, they could step back and see the work they had accomplished.

Showing God's love through service produced a special bond within the group, as did the spiritual components of the trip. Youth leaders Gary and Margo Grant scheduled each group member to lead a devotional time, providing opportunities for growth in Christ.

Perhaps the most interesting part of this mission trip was that it almost never happened. Just 18 months ago, Quitman UMC's youth group numbered fewer than five, and the church administrative board faced a difficult question: "Do we commit the funds necessary to build a youth group?"

There were no easy answers. At the time, worship attendance averaged fewer than 45 and the church faced other needs. But the congregation and leaders chose to step out in faith. The youth group was funded and began to grow. It now averages nearly 25 young people for Wednesday night meetings. And the growth of the youth group also increased worship attendance.

It has been a busy summer for these teens. In addition to their regular meetings, local outings and the Gulf Shores mission trip, they had 15 members attend Delta Pride Summer Camp organized by the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas State University.

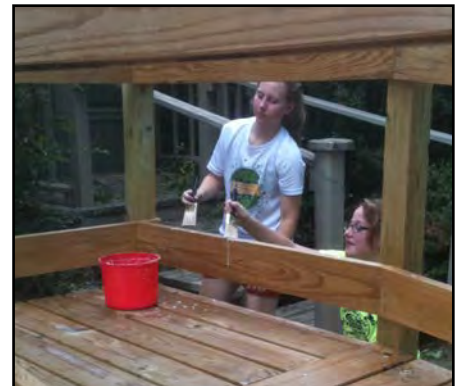
The Rev. Dave Caswell, Quitman UMC's pastor, says that stepping out in faith was the key.

"In one of Jacob's songs he sang, 'I will go Lord, if you lead me.' The Lord led and this church followed," he said.

Youth from Hope serve others during 'A.R.K. Week'

The youth of First UMC Hope this summer participated in a week-long effort to carry out Acts of Random Kindness, which they called A.R.K. Week. They chose a combination of activities that served others locally and across the state, including:

- Setting up a new kindergarten classroom at First UMC Hope;
- Cleaning house for a 93-year-old neighbor in the community;
- Yard work and construction for The Caring Place in Magnolia, an adult day care ministry for those with dementia. The Caring Place project was arranged with help from Byron Mann, Volunteers In Mission coordinator for the Arkansas Conference.



Youth from First UMC Hope water-seal a wheelchair ramp at The Caring Place in Magnolia, a ministry that provides adult day care for those with dementia. COURTESY PHOTOS

Christ Way Jonesboro creates dedicated youth space

The Conquerors youth group of Christ Way United Methodist Church Jonesboro participated recently in the remodeling of part of the church's facility. Their work gave them "sweat equity" in their own dedicated ministry gathering space, known as the Coliseum.

Christ Way UMC has received much of its current attendance growth from the presence of young people, so the new space is an investment in an already active ministry area. The Coliseum provides space for children and youth to worship, plan, play and share fellowship. It features a full worship area and its own baptismal font, separate classrooms and program-driven work and learning areas.

"From ages 4 to 18, our intent is to replace the possibility of boredom leading to bad behaviors with supervised and fun growth, and Christ-centered learning and community outreach sessions," said the Rev. Herschel Richardson, Christ Way's pastor.



Youth of Christ Way UMC Jonesboro pull up carpet in preparation for remodeling that gave the youth group its own dedicated space. COURTESY PHOTO

Fink commissioned as US-2 missionary



Thomas Kemper, the Rev. Regina Henderson, Bishop John Schol, George Howard, and Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee lay hands on Elizabeth Fink during her Aug. 12 commissioning as a US-2 Missionary.

COURTESY PHOTO

Elizabeth Fink, a member of Highlands UMC Bella Vista, on Aug. 12 was commissioned as a US-2 Missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Fink has wanted to be a missionary since she was a child, and found herself as an adult encouraged to pursue that dream through mission trips, both internationally and in the United States. She says she has “always had an intense desire to be used by God to change the world.”

She holds a degree in urban and cross-cultural studies from Greenville College in Greenville, Ill., and was a member of AmeriCorps from 2010 to 2011. Her US-2 work is in response to Superstorm Sandy. She will work in New Jersey with the non-profit A Future With Hope, a ministry that helps victims of the hurricane while focusing on four areas: Relief, Repair, Rebuild and Renew.

The US-2 program of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries is a domestic, two-year, faith- and justice-centered leadership development and Christian service program for adults ages 20 to 30. US-2s integrate faith and justice by walking with communities in their struggles to address systemic injustice and human suffering.

Fink is the daughter of the Rev. Bryan and Luckie Fink of Bella Vista.

Lynn becomes first Arkansas pastor to earn M.Div. from Saint Paul's Oklahoma City University campus

The Rev. Jacob Lynn on Aug. 23 became the first Arkansas seminary student to earn a Master of Divinity degree from the Oklahoma City University location of Saint Paul School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary. He is pictured here with Bishop Gary Mueller, who preached at the commencement service.

Lynn was commissioned as a provisional elder at the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference, and now serves as pastor of preaching and Christian education at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock.



PHOTO COURTESY SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

UM Museum of Arkansas seeking artifacts from African-American churches



ABOVE: This pew from Lafferty UMC Batesville, a now-closed African-American congregation, is part of the collection of the United Methodist Museum of Arkansas. LEFT: The Rev. William Riley Richmond Duncan (1857-1914) was the first African-American to be appointed a Presiding Elder in Arkansas.

The United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference (UMMAC) laments a lack of African-American church artifacts in the museum collection. To correct this omission, UMMAC is actively seeking more representation in three areas: Historic Clergy; Lay Leaders; and Churches (closed or active).

Though items may be submitted at any time, those received by Monday, Oct. 28 will be considered for the February 2014 Black History Month exhibit.

All submitted items must have provenance—a brief written history—and most require identifying information for each item.

The African-American Committee of the museum is interested in items relating to any historic “first” in African-American Methodism—clergy, deacon, elder, bishop, lay person elected to head a Methodist organization, African-American churches, African-American clergy and/or members of traditionally all-white churches, etc.

Other types of items being sought include:

- Photographs (portraits, groups, churches, events)
- Paintings or drawings (portraits, depictions of churches)
- Prints (portraits, groups, churches, commemorative posters)
- Digital images (may be sent electronically to the curator's email, sorryvasari@att.net, with text explaining content of image)

- Furniture (altars, baptismal fonts, pulpits, lecterns, pews, Sunday school chairs)
- Architectural elements from closed churches (smaller stained-glass windows, banister rails, newels, church signs, cornerstones)
- Textile items (paraments, altar cloths, pulpit robes, stoles)
- Items used in worship (Communion service sets, chalices, crucifers/crosses, candle holders)
- Ceramic commemorative church plates depicting African-American churches
- Objects from Philander Smith College

The accession committee will consider any object that might hold significance for the history of African-Americans in Arkansas Methodism. All artifacts must be approved by the volunteer curator and the accession committee before being placed in the museum collection.

If you have an item that you believe may be of interest to the museum, contact Linda Baker, volunteer curator, 501-372-4685 or sorryvasari@att.net; or Edna Ricks, chair of the African-American Museum Committee, 501-664-1813 or ricksedna@aol.com.

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Imagine No Malaria total continues to rise

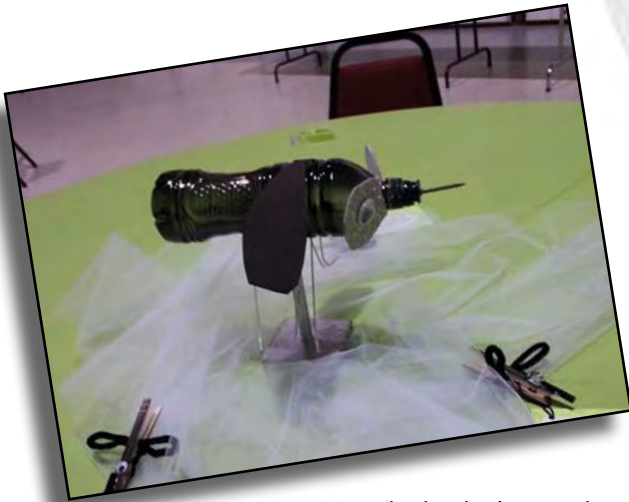
Summer may be a time to slow down for some, but United Methodists in Arkansas have continued to work toward the their goal of saving 100,000 lives by raising \$1 million for Imagine No Malaria by 2015.

In an ecumenical effort, churches in northwest Arkansas joined together for a Hymn Sing and raised \$5,000 toward the effort. Hosted by **First UMC Fort Smith**, other churches that participated in the community event included **Goddard, Cavanaugh, Faith, Greenwood, Charleston** and **New Hope UMCs**, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Concord UMC's United Methodist Women received an update on the Imagine No Malaria effort at one of their recent gatherings. Table decorations even featured mosquitoes as a reminder of the way malaria is transmitted.

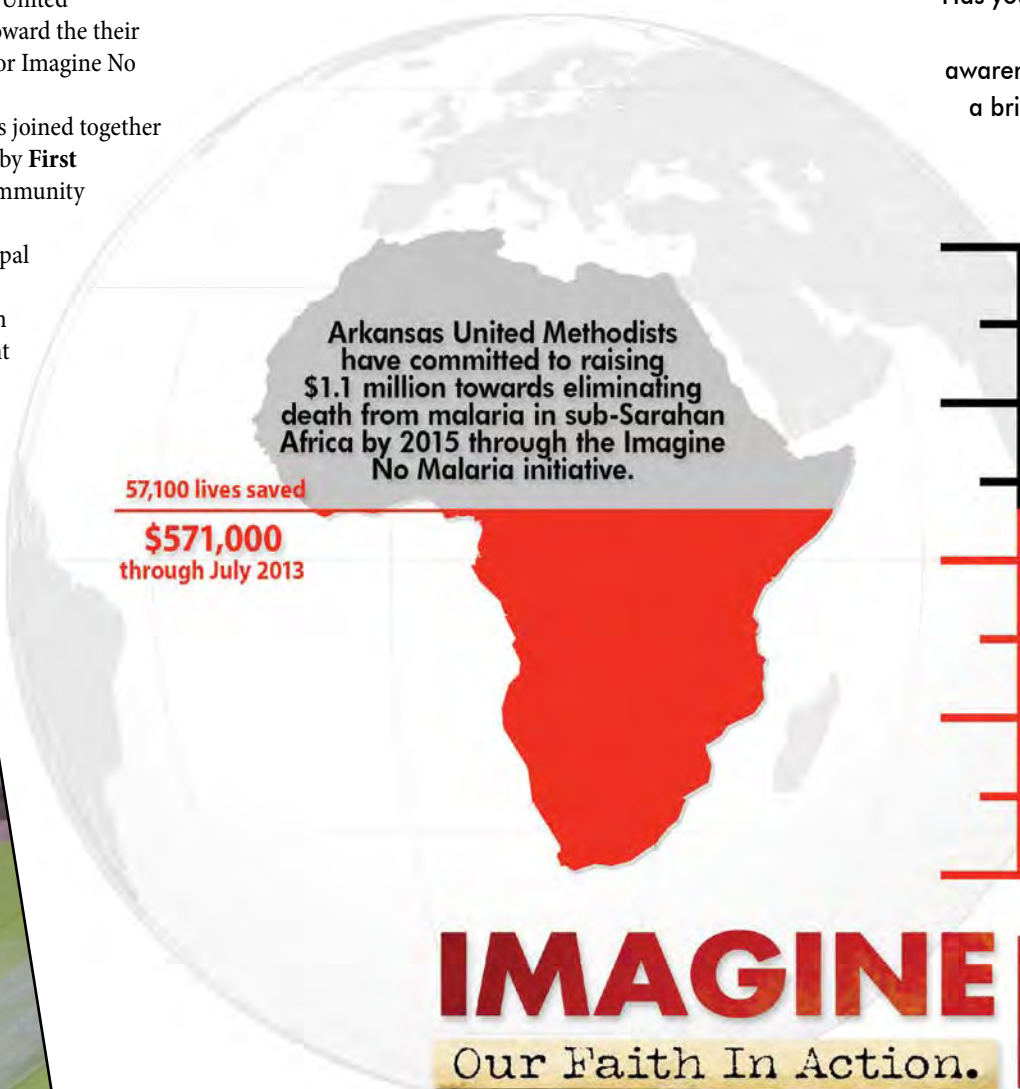
Several churches, including **First UMC Russellville**, are setting the goal of donating \$10 per worshipper, based on their average attendance in 2013.

New resources and ideas for promoting Imagine No Malaria during Advent and Lent will be available at this fall's charge conferences, including a DVD containing portions of Bishop Tom Bickerton's moving sermon from the Tuesday morning worship service during June's Annual Conference gathering.

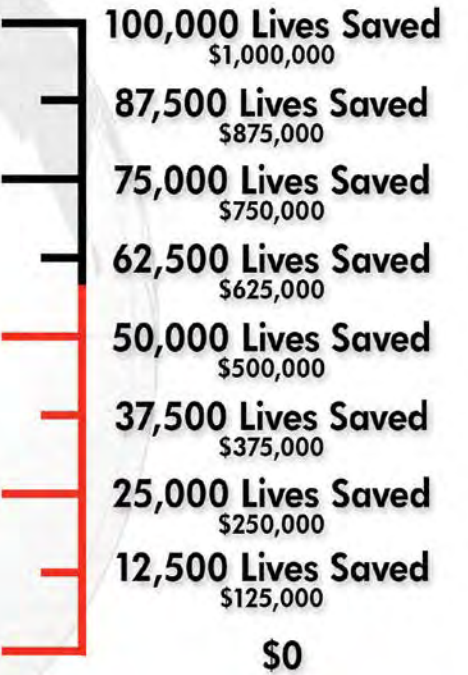


Mosquito-inspired centerpieces decorated tables at a recent Concord UMC United Methodist Women meeting.

COURTESY PHOTO



Has your church or small group organized a creative event to raise funds or awareness for Imagine No Malaria? Send a brief description and photo to Martha Taylor, mtaylor@arumc.org.



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MALARIA

The above total reflects a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. UMFA will match every gift received through the Arkansas Conference, up to \$333,333.

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-
- 5'7" KNABE GRAND PIANO for sale.** Beautifully restored, mahogany finish, excellent condition, \$12,500. 501-993-7579; jbmorg@yahoo.com.
-
- Norphlet UMC (near El Dorado) is seeking a PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR.** We are looking for someone with experience in leading a church choir weekly for worship and for special events. The job will include: leading Wednesday evening choir practice, leading music in worship on Sunday mornings, leading the choir as they sing for special occasions, selecting & planning seasonal music (i.e., Lenten special music & Christmas cantata), and assisting pastor in selecting hymns & special music for Sunday worship. We are seeking a music leader with a passion for worship, charisma, and gifts for igniting passion for worship in others. To apply, contact Pastor Heather Clawitter at 501-620-9783 or heatherclawitter@yahoo.com.
-
- Mayflower UMC seeks energetic leader for its Youth Group.** Must be able to lead youth to Christ through an atmosphere of love and youth activities, and maintain a good Christian relationship with the youth. Candidates with a Methodist background preferred. Duties include Sunday school, children's church worship and a youth outreach ministry. Part-time position; may be ideal for a college student. For information on applying for the position, email brazlewood@yahoo.com.
-
- YOUTH DIRECTORS ~ Need help planning a summer trip or already thinking about Spring Break 2014?** We've been sending groups packing for 31 years and we're still going strong, thanks in large part to United Methodist youth groups! If all you need is transportation, we've got that covered, too. Kimberling Kids Travel ~ kimberlingkids@aol.com ~ 501-227-8447.
-
- Swamp Angel Ministries is traveling Arkansas!** Donations go to the Annual Arkansas Retired Ministers Day. For info: contact David Bush at thepastor@stuttgartfumc.org.
-
- Home Study:** Save \$\$\$ Christian Bible College, P.O. Box 8968 Rocky Mt., NC 27804 Phone (252) 451-1031; www.christianbiblecollege.org.

'Mission u' emphasizes education, knowledge for faithful Christians

School of Christian Mission successor off to strong start

BY DONI AND FRED MARTIN
Special Contributors

CONWAY— Hendrix College welcomed 261 participants to its campus for this summer's Mission u, held July 31 to Aug. 3, 2013. The event centered on the theme, "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World."

Known for decades as the Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission, under the guidance of this year's mission team and the direction of the National Office of the United Methodist Women, it took on the name "Mission u."

Mission u is sponsored annually by the Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries, Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. The Rev. Pam Estes, pastor of Lakeside UMC Pine Bluff, was chosen to serve as dean during this year of transition.

"Mission u is a cooperative mission education opportunity," Estes said. "That's why we love having children, youth and adults of every age. Mission education is a priority not only of the UMW, but also for every faithful Christian. Mission education helps us in our knowledge and application of faith."

When participants arrived on campus Wednesday afternoon, many brought bags of food from UMW

units around the state for Arkansas Rice Depot's Food for Kids program. This food, which Rice Depot will distribute through participating schools statewide, provided a mission action for the children and youth: They helped sort the food items into re-sealable plastic bags so the food could easily be sent home with students in a backpack.

Registrar Beth Cobb reported that 63 Mission u attendees were first-time participants; 35 commuted from off-campus; and the roster included 77 children and youth, 14 clergy and four missionaries.

Worship and learning

Each day began with Morning Praise, including music and devotion coordinated by Cynthia Sparks. Worship and plenary sessions, directed by the Rev. Maxine Allen, were held in the Hendrix SLTC (Student Life and Technology Center). Music director Danita Waller-Paige led familiar songs from the United Methodist Hymnal, as well as introducing new songs and teaching songs in other languages.

"The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly" was this year's spiritual growth study. Instructors led their classes in discussions and various activities designed to deepen the participants' experience of faith. Study leaders included the Rev. David Baker of Wesley UMC

Conway; the Rev. Bill Buchanan of First UMC Forrest City; Betty Jo DeWeese and the Rev. Ted DeWeese of Lakeside UMC Lake Village; the Rev. Terry Gosnell of Trinity UMC Fayetteville; and the Rev. Natasha Murray-Norman, Regional Mission Field Coordinator for the Southeast District.

This year's geographic study, "The Roma of Europe," inspired many to learn about and share concern for the people often referred to as "gypsies," who have no place to call their homeland and are driven from settlements as they live day to day. Class leaders for this topic included Dr. Paul Bube, of Lyon College; the Rev. Ray Nelson of Watson Chapel UMC and Call UMC in the Texas Annual Conference; the Rev. Ruby Nelson of St. Paul's UMC in Beaumont, Texas; and Judy Wooldridge of Cherokee Village UMC.

Poverty was the focus of this year's issue-centered study. The Rev. Mark Norman, a fourth generation Methodist minister and superintendent of the Southeast District, served as the leader, guiding participants in examining faithful approaches to ministry with the poor.

Children and youth

While adults were in their classrooms, childcare coordinators



Children attending Mission u participate in activities and spend time learning together.

PHOTO BY JAMES HENDRIX

provided age-appropriate activities for youngsters. Children and youth turned their attention to "Migration," a study that offered a Christian perspective on historical and current issues related to migrating and immigrating.

Students participating in the "Migration" study learned about the faithful responsibility Christians have to welcome the stranger, and what that responsibility means for their lives. Robin Deneise Williams led grades 1-3, Connie Smith led grades 4-6, Rod Hocott worked with junior high youth and Muriel Schrepfer with senior high youth.

Hocott has spent 44 years in youth ministry, and currently leads mid-high youth at First UMC Conway. Schrepfer is a recent

graduate of Arkansas State University, where she was a Wesley Foundation leader and ministry team member. She already has 11 years of involvement in Mission u.

Leaders hope that next year's Mission u can begin one week earlier. Tentative dates are July 23-27, 2014, with Diana Hendricks serving as dean.

Next summer's studies will include:

- Spiritual Growth: "How is it With Your Soul?"
- Issue Study: "The Church and People with Disabilities"
- Geographic: "The Roma of Europe"

The Martins are long-time leaders and participants in Mission u.



We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy the personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.



RIISING FROM THE ASHES: Hickory Plains UMC, north of Carlisle, is watching a new beginning form before their eyes as construction on their new church building progresses. Before footings were poured for the foundation at the end of July, the builder incorporated some pieces of history: bricks salvaged from the building that burned on May 30, 2012. The old bricks, forming the shape of a cross, lie under the northeast corner of the footing.

At press time, the framing process had begun. For updates, visit the church's Facebook page at [facebook.com/HickoryPlainsUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HickoryPlainsUMC).

COURTESY PHOTO

Church helps a four-footed community member

Cavanaugh UMC Fort Smith on July 26 hosted a benefit dinner to purchase supplies and equipment, including a protective vest, for K-9 officer "Asi" of the Sebastian County Sheriff's Department.

Asi had been trained for police work by her handler Deputy Randy White, a neighbor of one of Cavanaugh's regular visitors at its monthly Let's Do Lunch Community Luncheon. He mentioned this need to Patsy Burris and Carolyn Ledbetter, who got the ball rolling to host the benefit at the church. More than 220 persons attended to support the effort, resulting in over \$7,500 raised to support the K-9 program. Asi will now have protective gear to wear in the line of duty.

While it may not be a typical ministry project for a church, the congregation stepped up to support a need in their mission field, making more community connections along the way.



Asi, Sebastian Co. K-9 officer

—submitted by the Rev. Mike Topham

Children/Family Specialist

First United Methodist Church in Blytheville, Arkansas, is seeking an energetic, creative Christian adult to help prepare children for a lifetime of faith and service. Average 15 hours/week. Duties include planning, leading and developing a lay ministry team for Sunday morning activities, Wednesday night classes and occasional special events. Should exhibit a heart for children, and positive leadership, communications and organizational skills. Send resume to bfumc_nrm@sbcglobal.net or call the church office at 870-763-3351.

Believing, Belonging, Becoming
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ABOVE: The Aug. 24 final worship service in the Chapel of the Cross.

RIGHT: The Rev. Omar Rikabi, center, on Aug. 24 led a celebration of Holy Communion on the land where the new Wesley House will be built.

PHOTOS BY JENN AL-RIKABI

Land swap

(continued from page 1)

where the U of A Wesley will make its new home closer to the center of campus—within sight of the bookstore and several dormitories, and a quick walk away from the student union.

It's part of a deal with the university that involves trading some land and receiving financial compensation for the higher value of the Wesley Foundation's Maple Street property.

"This is a major upgrade in location from a missional and service view," said the Rev. Omar Rikabi, director of the U of A Wesley. "Given our historical struggle for facilities and our historical call to be a presence for Christ on the UA campus, this is a huge win for both."

In a fix

For several years, the Wesley Foundation at the U of A has forged ahead despite some obvious deficiencies—such as no kitchen, an obvious need for a ministry that feeds college students' bodies as well as their souls. And instead of a bathroom, they've had a portable toilet just outside the building, which students dubbed "Big Blue."

How did it happen? In the early 2000s, a new facility was in the planning stages. Those plans fell through—but not before the ministry had leveled one of its buildings to prepare for construction. The premature demolition left them with only the Chapel of the Cross: an impressive worship space, but one with no plumbing, aside from an outdoor spigot for a garden hose.

By the time Rikabi became the director of U of A Wesley in 2008, leaders had given up on the previous building campaign and had shifted the focus to not incurring any more debt.

Meanwhile, Rikabi focused on growing a ministry that didn't depend on a new building—but that could benefit from one. And all the while, he and others prayed for a way forward.

A sweet spot

Positioned on what's known as Sorority Row, the U of A Wesley in recent years found ways to help its neighbors. For example, during Rush Week, they would host sorority pledges in the chapel, feeding them pizza and other snacks while they waited for their next rush parties.

The ministry's Sorority Row location soon proved valuable in a different way: The school currently has more sororities than sorority houses, and saw the Wesley property and an adjoining lot as a way to solve that problem. The university approached the Wesley Foundation about buying its land.

With the blessing of the Wesley Foundation Board of Trustees, Rikabi began negotiations with the university. But by late 2012, the process had stalled. He mentioned the state of affairs to Brian Swain, administrator of Central UMC Fayetteville, who offered to talk with the university's chief negotiator. The Wesley Board granted Swain permission to begin a conversation about the possibilities.

"I started honing in on a plan that I thought would be workable for Wesley," Swain said.

Rikabi credits the Wesley Foundation Board for their steady support; attorney Lamar Pettus for donating his legal expertise; and Swain for the persistence and know-how to manage negotiations with the university.

"Brian is the Superman of this deal," Rikabi said, noting that in addition to negotiating, Swain also helped develop the request for

proposal for prospective contractors and helped secure an architect's services.

Swain demurs, saying he stepped in to provide his skills in an area where clergy often have little to no training.

"It really just needed to be shepherded a little bit," he said.

Swain has a personal interest in the success of the Wesley Foundation, too. He has a master's degree from U of A, but his Wesley Foundation roots go back to his days as an undergrad at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville.

"I was heavily involved in the Wesley Foundation at Tech," he said. "I know what can happen through Wesley Foundations, and I was very motivated by that, too, wanting to see this succeed. I know that they've been hampered by having inadequate facilities. They've had a poor location, and they just didn't have the tools to do ministry with at their current site."

Knowing about the Wesley's earlier failed project, Swain realized the importance of having an infusion of cash as part of the deal. To that end, the agreement includes about 85 percent of the funding Wesley needs to move forward with construction of a new facility.

"They're going to have a much improved location, and a brand-new facility that's more conducive to modern ministry," Swain said. "And they're also going to have—hopefully, if this all goes well—all of it debt-free."

What next?

At press time, the ministry had relocated to its temporary home at 532 North Lindell Avenue, and all that remained was to make the swap official with the Sept. 3 signing of closing documents. The temporary space, leased from the university, sits

next door to the future site of the new Wesley House.

Having already received initial approval from the Northwest District Board of Church Location and Building, the U of A Wesley will continue keeping the District informed as it moves through the design phase and on toward construction.

Plans for the new Wesley House include space for worship and social gatherings, an open kitchen,

meeting rooms, offices and—of course—spacious restrooms.


"We will be fundraising about \$205,000 for the remainder," Rikabi said, "which includes the furnishing of the new location and the payoff of our current debt."

The Wesley Foundation leadership hopes to see construction begin before the end of this semester, with the new building completed in time for the start of classes in Fall 2014.

Lending your support to campus ministry

The U of A Wesley Foundation board has begun a fundraising campaign to build the new Wesley House debt-free. To learn more, contact the Rev. Rikabi: omar@uawesley.com or 479-443-5226.

The Fayetteville campus ministry is just one of many efforts to reach out to Arkansas college students with the love of Christ. To learn how to support a United Methodist campus ministry in your area, contact the Rev. Roy Smith, chair of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry: roy.smith@arumc.org or 479-968-1232.





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Walk raises \$86k for Methodist Family Health

BY JANE DENNIS
Special Contributor

NORTH LITTLE ROCK— Methodist Family Health's 7th Annual Walk for Children and Families, took place Aug. 2 at Cook's Landing Park and over the Big Dam Bridge.

More than 780 participants—including a host of church youth groups—streamed into North Little Rock from all corners of the state to join the fundraising event. They hiked the bridge's walkway to the Little Rock side of the Arkansas River and back. With participant donations of between \$20 and \$50, corporate sponsorships and other gifts, the event raised more than \$86,000.

Proceeds will benefit the children, adolescents and families who turn to Methodist Family Health for behavioral and mental healthcare. The 2013 Walk's funds will be used specifically for health and fitness equipment and activities for residential clients of Methodist Family Health.

"This event has grown every year, and we are so appreciative,"

said Methodist Family Health CEO Andy Altom. "It means a lot to see this many people turn out to help the children and families we serve."

The Walk for Children and Families included live music by the Gable Bradley Band, plus plenty of free pizza, ice cream and water, and T-shirts for everyone. Special guests included former Arkansas Razorback athletes Clint Stoerner and Pat Bradley.

Methodist Family Health, founded in 1899 by Methodists in Arkansas, provides comprehensive psychiatric and behavioral healthcare to children and families throughout Arkansas. The organization serves more than 1,400 clients daily in inpatient, residential and outpatient venues of care. The mission at Methodist Family Health is to give the best possible care to those who may need help and to treat the whole person: behaviorally, emotionally and spiritually.

Dennis, a former editor of the Arkansas United Methodist, serves as director of communications for Methodist Family Health.



Participants in Methodist Family Health's Walk for Children and Families helped raise \$86,000 to provide fitness equipment and activities for the organization's residential clients.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Methodist Family Health's Walk for Children and Families was a huge success again this year thanks to our dedicated participants, volunteers and generous sponsors. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to everyone for taking steps with us to support our ongoing mission of providing compassionate care to children and families in need.

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COMING UP

September

Faith formation: free webinar Sept. 17

The free webinar, "Creative Thinking in Faith Formation: An Ancient/Future Approach" will be presented by the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship on the evening of Sept. 17.

Beginning with an exploration of Jesus' teaching methods, participants in this webinar will move to reflection on what we know about how adults learn and what it means to "turbo-charge" strategies for effective teaching and learning today.

The one-hour webinar begins at 6:30 p.m. Central time. To register for this and other free learning opportunities, visit www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/webinars. For more information, contact Carol Krau, ckrau@gbod.org, or 615-340-7171.

Consultation on the Black Church in Little Rock Sept. 20-21

On Sept. 20-21, the Arkansas Conference will host a Consultation on the Black Church at Philander Smith College Kendall Science and Health Mission Center, 800 W. Daisy Bates Drive in Little Rock.

At the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference, Bishop Gary Mueller emphasized the importance of creating vital, self-sustaining and growing African-American congregations. He added that this is not just an issue for African-Americans, but for the entire Conference. As a part of this meeting, the clergy will continue their conversation with the Bishop and Cabinet (Friday afternoon) and the laity will participate in a conversation with the Bishop (Saturday morning).

Each congregation is asked to bring at least four persons: pastor, lay leader, SPRC chair and someone under 40. Dr. Fred Allen, from Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, will facilitate discussion.

If you have questions or wish to register, contact the Rev. Maxine Allen at mallen@arumc.org or 501-539-0280.

October

'Equip' youth ministry training Oct. 25-26

Equip, a training event for all who work in youth ministry—as paid or unpaid servants—is set for Oct. 25-26 at Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock. Sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Youth Ministry Resource Team (ACYMRT), Equip will focus on empowering participants to build a sustainable youth ministry that can withstand transitions and challenges. The Rev. Dr. Andy Stoker, Saturday's keynote speaker, will base his address on the book *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark DeVries.

Equip includes optional Friday night Sabbath activities, including a meal and worship with Bishop Mueller. The low fee includes lodging, all meals and a copy of the book. A Saturday-only reduced fee is also available. To register, visit arumc.org and click on "Online Event Registration," or visit <https://2013equip.eventbrite.com>. Questions? Contact Michelle Moore: 501-425-5975 or michelle.moore@arumc.org.

The ACYMRT recognizes the importance of giving leaders a solid foundation for ministry with young people, and will soon expand its continuing education offerings.

Faith & Health Conference in Memphis Oct. 17

Methodist LeBonheur and the Church Health Center are sponsoring the 12th Annual Faith & Health: Making the Connection Conference for Clergy and Congregational Leaders on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Church Health Center Wellness in Memphis, Tenn.

With the theme "The Affordable Care Act: What it Means for You, Your Church and Your Community," the conference will explain the main features of the ACA and what it means for your health care coverage, your congregation as a potential employer and the community of the Mid-South. It will include experts on each of these issues and provide clergy with important, accurate

information on the potential effects of the Affordable Care Act. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Robinson is the keynote speaker.

To learn more or register for the event, visit www.churchhealthcenter.org/faithhealthseries.

McFee to lead worship design retreat in Louisiana Oct. 20-23

Dr. Marcia McFee, a nationally known worship leader and educator, will lead a retreat for worship teams at the Wesley Center near Alexandria, La., Oct. 20-23. The event will seek to answer the question, "How do we create vital and passionate worship consistently without getting burned out, while still caring for all the other duties of the ministry?"

The retreat will guide participants in planning worship for the whole liturgical calendar, so they leave with a year's worth of worship ready to be implemented. In addition to workshops, the retreat focuses on providing spiritual renewal for worship planners.

McFee has taught across the country for two decades, and designed worship for the last two UMC General Conferences. Participants will have access before and during the retreat to her new online resource that includes four years of worship themes and a design application for interactive teamwork. For information or to register, visit www.marciamcfee.com and click on "Calendar."

Fall Adult Retreat at Mount Sequoyah Oct. 27-30

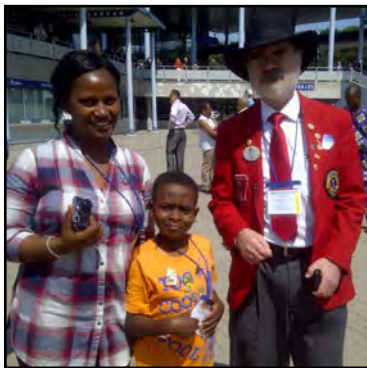
"At the Cross," a fall retreat for adults, is set for Oct. 27-30 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville. In addition to time for spiritual renewal at this historic Methodist gathering place, the event features excursions to Crystal Bridges Museum of Art and a trip on the Arkansas Missouri Railroad. However, all participants will be able to tailor the retreat to fit their needs and wants specifically. For more information or to register, visit www.mountsequoyah.org.

Moyer named Lions Club District Governor

At the July 1-10 Lions International Convention in Hamburg, Germany, the Rev. Norm Moyer was installed as District Governor for Lions Club District 7-O, covering the northeast corner of Arkansas. Moyer's wife, the Rev. Bonda Moyer, now serves at Hoxie UMC, but is a former superintendent of the old Forrest City District.

Norm Moyer says seeing his spouse in the district role prepared him for his current volunteer position.

"I have some of the same towns to go to as Bonda



did when she was DS," he said. "She had a number of churches and congregations to work with, and I have a number of clubs and memberships to train, visit and build, same as she did with the churches."

He sees two major differences in his current job and his wife's former one: unlike United Methodist DSes, Lions Club District Governors don't appoint anyone to their positions, and they don't draw paychecks.

Moyer noted that he is not the first Arkansas clergy to serve in a leadership role with the Lions Club. He counts as his mentors PDG Jerry Pulliam and PDG Allen Bonsall (now deceased), as well as PDG Joe Linam and PCC David Moose.

The Rev. Norm Moyer, right, with friends from Nigeria at the 96th International Lions Club Convention at Hamburg, Germany, following his swearing-in as a District Governor. The fellowship of Lions Clubs extends to 209 nations around the world, including China.

Methodist Healthcare Foundation presents lunch with actress Sally Field

Two-time Academy Award-winning, two-time Emmy-winning and two-time Golden Globe-winning actress Sally Field will speak candidly about her life and art, and how she balances the demands of family and career, at the annual Methodist Cancer Center Luncheon on Friday Nov. 22, 2013, at 11:45 a.m. at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

Sponsorships, tables and tickets are now available. To purchase tickets, call 901-516-0500 or visit the "events" link at www.methodisthealth.org. Proceeds from this event benefit West Cancer Center. Together with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Methodist Healthcare is proud to partner with the West Clinic to form the West Cancer Center.



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Assembly 2013 brings together Arkansas youth

More ACCYM events planned for 2013-14



The annual Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (ACCYM) Junior and Senior High Assemblies were held simultaneously on the campus of the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, July 20-24. Approximately 365 youth and adults were present for the week of worship, fellowship and small group participation. The Kyle Thurman Band led worship music for both age groups, Tim Palmer brought the messages for the Senior High and the Rev. Mary Jane Cole for the Junior High.

ACCYM events coming up in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 include:

- **Refuge** (Junior High retreat): Nov. 8-10, 2013, Shepherd of the Ozarks in Harriet
- **MITTO** (mission event open to grades 9 through 12): Dec. 29, 2013-Jan. 2, 2014
- **Veritas** (Senior High event): Feb. 28-March 2, 2014, Hammons Convention Center in Rogers
- **Choir Tour** (open to grades 9 through 12): June 22-29, 2014.

For more information, visit accym.org or contact Michelle Moore, coordinator of youth ministry for the Arkansas Conference, at michelle.moore@arumc.org or 501-425-5975.

COURTESY PHOTO

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES

For information on any Volunteers In Mission (VIM) project below, contact the individual listed or Byron Mann, Conference VIM coordinator, at vim@arumc.org or 870-703-8361. For Disaster Response (DR) projects, contact Byron or Janice Mann, DR co-coordinators, at disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359 (Janice). To connect with these ministries on Facebook, search for "Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response - Serving Arkansas & Beyond," and join the group for updates.

Flooring and cabinet installation teams still needed in Scott County

Flood damaged homes in Scott County still need teams to make repairs. At the last update, help installing flooring and cabinets was a frequent request. Please let us know (vim@arumc.org) if individuals or groups are available to help, and help us spread the word that help is still needed.

Mexico mission, Feb. 22-28, 2014

Volunteers In Mission of the Arkansas Conference UMC is sponsoring a mission journey to Rio Bravo, Mexico, from Saturday, Feb. 22 to Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. Opportunities to share Christ's love include Mission Bible School, construction, home visits, painting, repairs and other tasks.

The fee will cover all meals, lodging, eating out (once) and ground transportation. Deposit due immediately to reserve your spot; balance due Jan. 6. For information on pricing and payment, contact Larry Acton, 870-420-3969 or 512-497-4154; or Byron Mann, 870-703-8361 or vim@arumc.org.

Costa Rica mission, Jan. 18-25, 2014

An opportunity for mission in Tuetal Sur, Alajuela, Costa Rica is set for Saturday, Jan. 18 through Saturday, January 25, 2014. Ministry opportunities include finishing construction on a church building; painting the church and educational buildings; landscaping; and Mission Bible School. An option to extend your trip, Experiencing Costa Rica (the Atlantic Coast area) runs from Jan. 25-29.

For information, contact Larry Acton, team leader, at 870-420-3969 or 512-497-4154; or Byron Mann, 870-703-8361 or vim@arumc.org.

Mission journey to Colombia, Feb. 19-25

Consider joining a mission adventure to Cartagena,

Colombia, Feb. 19-25, 2014, to view the street children's mission and see how it operates to serve the children of Cartagena. The group will deliver school supplies, help with remedial education, create visual aids to be used in their ministry and complete some light construction projects. Other activities include attending a local church service and touring a campground project being developed on a nearby island for the street children. There will be some time to see the old fort and city. For pricing, or to reserve your spot, contact Dan or Kathy Dunn: kathycdunn@gmail.com, 479-586-4471 or 479-899-3974.

VIM opportunity in Magnolia

The Caring Place in Magnolia is a "daycare" for adults with Alzheimer's Disease. It operates out of a large house that needs some repairs and painting, carpet installation, gates built on the porches, landscaping, etc. The ministry would also like to tear down an old garage and replace it with a gazebo.

Teams must be able to contribute toward the cost of their project. Out of town teams may stay in the house, which has a full kitchen and five bedrooms. For details, contact Byron Mann at vim@arumc.org or Barbara Lewis at barblewis@sbcglobal.net.

Disaster Response training retreat Sept. 21; register by Sept. 12

Arkansas Conference Disaster Response will sponsor a day-long training in the Library Conference Room on the campus of Philander Smith College (across the parking lot from the Arkansas Conference office) on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Byron and Janice Mann, Conference disaster response coordinators, will provide training on the Incident Coordination System (ICS) functions, along with briefings on the roles of district and Conference operations/coordination teams in preparedness and response. District-based small

groups will develop procedures and structures for District Disaster Operations Teams. Sessions are geared toward those who wish to serve on a disaster operations team on a district or Conference level. To learn more, contact Janice Mann at disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359.

Two choices for Early Response Team (ERT) training: Sept. 28, Oct. 12

Two opportunities to become trained as an Early Response Team member are coming up soon. ERTs deploy as soon as help is requested following a disaster. For the Sept. 28 training at First UMC Rogers, contact Carly Moguin: carlymoguין@yahoo.com. For the Oct. 12 option at Heritage UMC Van Buren, contact Bob Bretch: rbretch@cox.net.

Disaster Response Academy Oct. 7-10; register by Sept. 19

The South Central Jurisdiction's Disaster Response Academy will be held Oct. 7-10 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville. Courses range from basic to advanced—including Connecting Neighbors training, which helps local churches prepare before a disaster strikes. Housing and meals are available at Mount Sequoyah for an additional fee. For details or to register, visit <http://scjademy2013.eventbrite.com> by Sept. 19.

Taking a mission journey? Tell VIM!

VIM wants to know if your church has made a mission journey this year, or is planning one for the future. Please send 1) your destination, 2) the number of volunteers participating and 3) the estimated cost of the journey to Byron Mann at vim@arumc.org. Mann also can provide information on planning mission journeys in Arkansas, the U.S. and internationally.

Healing Place Summer Camp provides variety of experiences for at-risk youth

Healing Place Ministries, a Pine Bluff-based outreach that promotes wholeness of body, mind and spirit, completed recently its 2013 Summer Youth Community Camp.

“Our goal was to provide an unforgettable week of camping experience that would enrich the lives of our at-risk children,” said the Rev. Edna Morgan, who serves as crime victims’ chaplain for Healing Place Ministries. “We provided services for over 200 at-risk and disadvantaged youth between the ages of four and 16 years old.”

Morgan says partnerships with a number of churches and community organizations made the camp experience possible for such a large number of children and youth. In addition to financial support, in-kind gifts and the faithful work of numerous volunteers ensured that campers could interact with each other in a healthy and cooperative manner.

Healing Place Ministries sought to make the camp educational, fun and relevant to address the issues that children face. Topics discussed during the camp included anger management and conflict resolution; self-esteem; making healthy choices; etiquette; nutrition; the importance of daily exercise; music appreciation; saying no to drugs—and meaning it; and gang and bullying prevention.

Campers had abundant options for indoor and outdoor activities, including table tennis, reading, board games, arts and crafts, basketball, volleyball, jump rope, softball, archery and fishing.

“It is so important that our children have healthy outdoor extracurricular activities to teach them how to care for their bodies, to love nature and care for the earth—which we are responsible for conserving for future generations,” Morgan said.

Healing Place Ministries emphasizes crime victims’ advocacy, physical fitness, nutrition, recreation, retreats, counseling and support groups.



Pat Johnson, foreground, of St. James UMC Pine Bluff, leads youth in an etiquette workshop during the summer youth camp provided by Healing Place Ministries.

COURTESY PHOTO

Traskwood (continued from page 1)

attention and their famous potluck lunches, people who visit want to come back.

Right coach, right time

When Dunlap heard about the Congregational Coaching program of the Arkansas Conference Center for Excellence in Clergy and Lay Leadership, he recognized the potential benefits it might have for Traskwood UMC. He asked that the congregation be matched with a coach.

In one of those “God moments,” as she calls it, Marcia Reed found herself assigned to develop a coaching relationship with Traskwood. A recent seminary graduate with a corporate training and coaching background, she had just been trained in the Conference coaching program and was eager to deploy her skills. What’s more, she lived in Benton, just down the road from Traskwood. They needed her; she needed them—a match made in Heaven.

Reed began meeting with Dunlap and members of the congregation in March, after church

on Sundays, during those popular potluck luncheons. Over the course of seven meetings to date, the group has made considerable progress. Church members currently are completing a Mission Field Self-Assessment. Based on demographic reports generated using Mission Insite, a program available to all Arkansas Conference churches, they identified their mission field.

“Then and now,” said Dunlap, “we see our mission field as being beyond our small community [population 518]. We are actively reaching out six miles in every direction—even north to Haskell [population 3,990] and west to Glen Rose. Our people have embraced a mission of building a Kingdom of God, wherever we can.”

Core Measure
2

We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.

They will launch the popular Alpha program in the church and community in September, as much for their own members as for non-members. Both Dunlap and Reed have been through the Alpha program, so they are well-prepared to conduct it at Traskwood UMC.

Reed will preach at the Sept. 8 service to kick off the program.

“We are treating this first Alpha course as a ‘train-the-trainer’ process, as much as a course for new members,” Reed said. “The current members and new members will be better prepared to take it into their mission field the second time through.”

Facility improvements

Organized in 1887, Traskwood UMC built its first building in 1900, rebuilt in 1910 after a fire and moved into the present building in 1955. The facility features a 75-seat sanctuary, a kitchen, dining area and classrooms in the basement, ample parking and a terrific location in

front of a stop sign on a busy corner. They even have a bell in a tower, which they ring by pulling on a rope at 11 a.m. Sunday mornings—a signal to the community that the Methodists have gathered for worship.

But some elements of the

building can interfere with the atmosphere of hospitality—such as the need to exit the building and go around back to reach the only restroom; a non-wheelchair-accessible entrance; and reliance on a window unit for air conditioning and heat.

Construction soon will begin to address those deficiencies. The last two pews in the sanctuary will be removed to allow for a new wall, restrooms and a narthex—major additions that still will leave seating for more than 60 people. Larger gatherings can be held at the city’s community center up the street. (There’s no truth to the rumor that the last two rows of pews are being removed just to get back-row sitters to move forward.)

Another resource came with Marcia Reed: her husband, Roger, who has joined her for many of the meetings at Traskwood UMC. The Reeds are members of First UMC Benton, and Roger is an officer in their United Methodist Men’s group.

Recognizing the need at Traskwood for construction and carpentry expertise, he proposed that the First UMC Benton United Methodist Men help with the project. They enthusiastically agreed. He also suggested Traskwood to his church’s youth director, Matt Carter,

for a service project the youth were hoping to do.

This sister-church relationship wasn’t a part of the Congregational Coach plan, but is a natural result of people reaching out to help others. Good things bloom and grow in God’s Kingdom.

Hoping to inspire

Will what has happened at Traskwood UMC work elsewhere?

“Each church and community is different,” says Reed. “We plant seeds. We brainstorm. We use proven principles and practices; we create new solutions. We listen, we pray. Whatever works, we’ll try.”

Dunlap agrees, adding that the people of Traskwood UMC love their church and community, and will do almost anything to help them thrive.

“We appreciate beyond words what the Conference has done and is doing to help small churches like ours,” he said. “In turn, we hope what we are doing will inspire other churches to ask for help—both from above and from a coach—as we pursue our mission to make disciples.”

Schick is a member of Lakewood UMC North Little Rock.

Asbury UMC Little Rock presents Martin Scholarships

Asbury UMC Little Rock has awarded its annual Martin Scholarships for college students. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Martin family of Little Rock, 182 Asbury UMC members have received more than \$499,685 in scholarships over the last 25 years to help them realize their educational dreams. The scholarship fund was established in 1987 for deserving members of Asbury UMC, and dedicated to the memory of Robert Longley Martin and his mother, Addie Virginia Wright Martin.

One of the first scholarships went to the Rev. Jeff Jones, who used it to attend seminary and today serves as senior pastor of Grace Community UMC Fort Smith.

Sixteen students have been awarded Martin Scholarships for the 2013-14 school year: Vincent McNerlin, attending Arkansas Tech University; Ashley Mullen, attending Baylor University; Hannah Shelton, attending Hendrix College; Anna Robbins, attending Point Park University; Madison Greenfield, Andrew Kurrus, Madeline Moffett, Erin Rowland, Jacob Stansell, Tanner Wagner, Bryce Wall and Laramie Wall, attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; Kyle York, attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Leah Gele' and Ben Stansell, attending the University of Central Arkansas; and Alexa Robbins, attending the University of Tulsa.

St. Paul UMC Jonesboro honors six on Scholarship Sunday

St. Paul United Methodist Church Jonesboro held its Scholarship Sunday on Aug. 4, 2013. The church awarded three \$1,500 scholarships and three \$500 book stipends.

Since this ministry started in 1988 presenting two \$250 scholarships, it has awarded more than \$124,000 in scholarships and book stipends to the congregation's young adults. St. Paul has awarded 73 scholarships for a total of \$79,750, and 97 book stipends for a total of \$44,400.

These young adults are embarking on their next phase of their lives with the help of their church family through these scholarships. Most persons who have received these scholarships over the years have earned their college degrees and continue to help in carrying out the mission of St. Paul.



Honorees at St. Paul UMC Jonesboro's 2013 Scholarship Sunday. Front row: Lauren Harrison, Jennifer Hannah and Dena Mueller, book stipend recipients. Back row: Stefan Simons, Courtney Lakey and Alexandria Carle, scholarship recipients.

COURTESY PHOTO

Arkansas Annual Conference Communications Survey

As part of our effort to meet the needs of clergy and laity in our Conference, the Arkansas Annual Conference is conducting a communications audit. We would like to learn how you believe we are communicating, and have created this survey to assist in capturing your feedback. There are two ways you may participate:

1) Online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PWRBWDC> - OR -

2) By completing and mailing the printed survey below before **Sept. 30, 2013**. When you have completed the survey, please mail it to:

Arkansas Conference, Attn: Marketing & Training
800 Daisy Bates Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202

We hope you will share the survey link or the printed survey with others in your church. Thank you for sharing your opinion.

1. Check all the ways you receive news and information from the conference on a regular basis:

☐ Conference Website

☐ Arkansas email network updates

☐ Enews in review and special announcements (via email)

☐ *Arkansas United Methodist* (digital edition)

☐ *Arkansas United Methodist* (print edition)

☐ Conference Facebook account

☐ Conference Twitter account

☐ Conference YouTube account

☐ Mailings (postal mail)

☐ Pastor

☐ Local church leaders

☐ Lay leaders

☐ District superintendents

☐ Bishop

☐ Conference

☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. Rate your overall level of satisfaction with communications at the Arkansas Conference:

☐ Very Satisfied

☐ Satisfied

☐ Neutral

☐ Unsatisfied

☐ Very Unsatisfied

3. How many conference-related emails do you receive each week?

☐ 0

☐ 1-2

☐ 3-4

☐ 5-6

☐ 7+

4. How often do you check your email?

☐ More than twice a day

☐ Daily

☐ 2-3 times a week

☐ 2-3 times a month

☐ Rarely

☐ Never, I don't have an email address

5. Rate your overall level of satisfaction with the Email Network, Enews, and special announcements delivered by email:

☐ Very Satisfied

☐ Satisfied

☐ Neutral

☐ Unsatisfied

☐ Very Unsatisfied

6. When reading the electronic newsletter, what content is most relevant to your interests?

☐ Conference News

☐ Conference Event Listings

☐ Job Postings

☐ Disaster Relief Requests

☐ News from the United Methodist Church

☐ Prayer Requests

☐ Announcements from the Bishop

7. Rate your overall satisfaction with the conference website (www.arumc.org):

☐ Very Satisfied

☐ Satisfied

☐ Neutral

☐ Unsatisfied

☐ Very Unsatisfied

8. How often do you visit the conference website (www.arumc.org)?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Occasionally

☐ Only when links from the electronic newsletter direct me there

☐ Never

9. What are you seeking when you visit the conference website? Check all that apply.

☐ Conference News

☐ Conference Event Listings

☐ Clergy Contact Information

☐ Church Location Information

☐ Forms

☐ Program Ministry Resources

☐ Health Benefit Information

☐ Appointment Announcements

☐ Job Listings

☐ Prayer Requests

☐ Conference Staff Contact Information

☐ Pension Benefit Information

☐ Conference Journal

CONTINUED on page 14

10. How would you describe your experience navigating the conference website (www.arumc.org)?

- ☐ Very Hard
☐ Somewhat Hard
☐ Neither Hard Nor Easy
☐ Somewhat Easy
☐ Very Easy

11. Rate your overall level of satisfaction with the *Arkansas United Methodist* (print or digital):

- ☐ Very Satisfied
☐ Satisfied
☐ Neutral
☐ Unsatisfied
☐ Very Unsatisfied

12. What other news or resource information would you like to see included in the "Arkansas United Methodist" that is not currently being offered?

13. Rank the order in which you would seek news/information from the Conference (1 being first, 5 being last):

- _____ *Arkansas United Methodist*
 _____ Arkansas Facebook account
 _____ Arkansas Twitter account
 _____ Conference website
 _____ Conference newsletter

14. Regarding Internet access, please select the answer most appropriate for you (indicating the type of Internet access that you have at your "home"):

- ☐ Cable connection
☐ DSL connection
☐ Dial-up connection
☐ Don't have Internet access
☐ Don't currently have, but plan to in the future

15. On average, how many text messages do you RECEIVE during a week?

- ☐ 0 (not applicable) ☐ 21-100
☐ 1-5 ☐ 100+
☐ 6-20

16. In providing you with information, what priority should be given to the following subjects? (1 being most important, 10 being least important)

- _____ Information to reach non-members to attend a UM church
 _____ Information for hurting families / family life education
 _____ Information about how to share your faith
 _____ Information to help Sunday school teachers
 _____ Information from the Bishop
 _____ Information about UM worldwide missions
 _____ News about/from other churches in the conference
 _____ Information about apportionment/budget interpretation
 _____ Information about Special Offerings
 _____ News about United Methodists outside the conference

17. Which of these social media do you currently have an account with? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Facebook ☐ LinkedIn
☐ Twitter ☐ Pinterest
☐ YouTube ☐ None of the Above

18. Please indicate all the ways that you use your cell phone. Check all that apply.

- ☐ To make and receive phone calls
☐ To send and receive text messages
☐ To send and receive emails
☐ To monitor personal and professional calendar
☐ To view websites
☐ To take photos
☐ To check social media accounts
☐ None of the above

19. Have you participated in a conference and/or training event sponsored by the Arkansas Conference during the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

20. What is your current relationship with the conference?

- ☐ Clergy
☐ Retired Clergy
☐ Lay Leader
☐ Member of church in Conference
☐ Other (specify): _____

21. What is your current age?

- ☐ 21 and under ☐ 55 to 64
☐ 22 to 34 ☐ 65 and over
☐ 35 to 44 ☐ Decline
☐ 45 to 54

22. Rate each in terms of their importance (actual use) to you:

Answer Options	Extremely important & useful	Very important & useful	Somewhat important & useful	Not important or useful at all
Conference Website				
Arkansas email network updates				
Enews in review and special announcements (via email)				
<i>Arkansas United Methodist</i> (digital edition)				
<i>Arkansas United Methodist</i> (print edition)				
Conference Facebook account				
Conference Twitter account				
Conference YouTube account				
Online Conference Forms & Downloads (i.e. resources)				
Online Search of Clergy Contact Information				
Online Location Search of Conference Churches				
Conference Event Calendar				
Conference-related mailings (postal mail)				

23. In your experience reading the *Arkansas United Methodist* (print or digital), please rate each in terms of their importance to you:

Answer Options	Very important & useful	Somewhat important & useful	Not important or useful at all	Not applicable
Bishop's message				
Editor's corner				
Opinion/Commentaries				
News of upcoming events ("Coming Up")				
Mission/Ministry articles				
Resource articles				
Appointment Announcements				
Letters to the Editor				
Advertisements/Business Directory				
People of Faith				
Book Review				
Classifieds				
Volunteer in Mission & Disaster Response Updates				
Obituaries				

24. Please share your level of interest:

Answer Options	Very Likely	Likely	Neutral/Not Sure	Not Likely	Would Not
Participate in Conference-related meetings online (via Skype, GoToMeeting, Google Hangout, etc.)					
Join Conference Facebook page					
Comment on Conference-sponsored blog post/s					
Follow Conference on Twitter					
Participate in online educational opportunities and/or webinars					

25. Please share any suggestions you might have to help improve Arkansas Conference communications.

OBITUARIES

BENTON

Eva Power Moore

Eva Power Moore, 84, of Benton passed away Wednesday, June 26, 2013, with her family at her side.

She was born in Benton on Sept. 3, 1928, to the late Leslie and Mamie Landers Power. She graduated from Benton High School in 1946, and went on to attend Little Rock Junior College and then the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree.



Eva Power Moore

Eva had many stories to tell about her years growing up in Benton. Her family owned Power's Grocery on South Street, where she learned to run a cash register and pump gas. She had a fantastic memory and could recount every tornado, flood or fire that occurred in Saline County. She could recite numerous poems or memorized pieces of literature that she learned in the Benton Public Schools. Crossword and Sudoku puzzles were no match for her!

Eva was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. She enjoyed many, many hours in UMW and circle meetings. In 45 years as a preacher's wife, she never missed a Sunday, a potluck or an opportunity to serve. She lived her life of ministry with the utmost dignity and grace. Her hobbies were endless. She loved to cook, do needlepoint, read, and watch her beloved Razorbacks.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband and father of two of her sons, John; her husband, the Rev. Dr. Robert B. Moore Jr.; two brothers, Ray and Ben Power; and two sons, Jim and John.

She is survived by two sons, Col. Don Kaminar and his wife, Toni, of Bryant, and Dr. Robert B. Moore III and his wife, MaryLou, of Blacksburg, Va.; and a daughter, Kie Moore Baxley and her husband, Tom, of Benton. Her grandchildren whom she was crazy about and will miss her dearly are Capt. Ben Kaminar and his wife, Sarah; 1st Lt. Jonathan Kaminar; Krystal Kaminar; Ashley Waite and her husband, Tyler; Kyle Moore; Kate Moore; Bo Baxley; and Jesse Baxley. She leaves a niece, Pricilla Stigler, and two nephews, John and Roger Power, whom she adored.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 29, at First UMC Benton's Christian Life Center, with the Rev. David Jones officiating. Visitation and reception followed.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church Benton, 200 N. Market Street, Benton, AR 72015.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK

Saville Shaw Henry

Saville Shaw Henry, 80, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013.

She was born on Oct. 18, 1932, in Lonoke, to Robert (R.L.) and Mable Young. She grew up as the youngest of five siblings and was named for her Aunt Saville, who paid for her birth during the hard times of the Great Depression. She enjoyed small town life in Lonoke, where her mother was a piano teacher and church organist and her father ran a grocery store on Main Street. They taught her the meaning of service and discipleship.

She met the love of her life, Carol Henry, when she was 14 years old. She graduated from Lonoke High School in 1950, was the class valedictorian and voted "All American Girl."



Saville Shaw Henry

After high school she attended Hendrix College and then married Carol in 1952. Carol became a football coach and their life together was full of family, friends, faith, and of course, football. After a time in Paragould, they moved to North Little Rock, where Saville started a life of ministry to children and youth.

Her heart for young people brought her to the North Little Rock Community Center to serve as its director. She then became director of Christian education at First UMC North Little Rock from 1968-1972; North Arkansas Conference Youth Coordinator from 1970-1976; and program director at Lakewood UMC North Little Rock from 1972-1980.

After her "retirement" in 1980, she continued to serve selflessly in ministry. Saville was a Board Member of The Shepherd Center, volunteered weekly as a music leader for 13 years at Riley's Oak Hill Manor and served for 25 years as a volunteer at her beloved Camp Aldersgate. In 1990 she was a Camp Aldersgate Roll of Honor Recipient, and she was the only Honorary Lifetime Board Member for the camp. Other recognitions include the 1990 Arkansas Community Service Award, 1991 President's Volunteer Action Award, 1999 Presidential Golden Rule Award, and in 2010 the Brumley Award for Religious Education from Hendrix College.

Saville dedicated her life to her family and to serving God. She had a special gift for teaching and she loved to write plays, poems and skits. Her home was full of laughter and fun. She loved playing cards and Scrabble with her girlfriends June and Esther, and every summer "Camp Mama" was a favorite time for her grandchildren. She had a disciplined spiritual life and her private time with God was the source of her faith and service.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Julian Young, and sister, Bobbie Benton. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Carol Henry; her daughter, Cindy Shaw Henry and son-in-law Joe Marchese; her son, Cal Henry; her grandchildren, Heather Lindsey and Tyler Lindsey; her sister, Shirley Fotioo; and her brother, Bob Young.

Funeral services were held Aug. 8 at Lakewood UMC. Burial followed in Rest Hills Memorial Park.

The family would like to thank Arkansas Hospice and the caregivers who became like family over the past two years. Memorials may be made to Camp Aldersgate, 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, AR 72205; or to the Saville Henry Endowment Fund of Lakewood UMC, 1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, AR 72116.

SEARCY

Harold H. Spence

The Rev. Harold Herman Spence, 94, passed away Monday, July 29, 2013.

He was born Sept. 20, 1918, in Cushman, Ark., to the late Albert Herman Spence and Lottie Masters Spence. He served full-time as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church in Arkansas for more than 40 years. In retirement, he served for an additional 10 years in the Searcy area, and as pastor emeritus of First United Methodist Church Searcy.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two wives, Delanie Ann Spence, to whom he was married for 57 years, and Marge Stark, to whom he was married for 8 years; a brother, Jesse James Spence; and a sister, Alberta Carter.

He is survived by five children: Rita Kay Cates of Bentonville; Janice Spence Chism of Avilla; Judith Ann Dubbell of Friday Harbor, San Juan Islands; Harold Keith Spence of Little Rock; and the Rev. Dennis Wayne Spence of Monticello; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 1 at Salem United Methodist Church Benton, and a graveside service followed at Bald Knob Cemetery in Bald Knob, Ark. The Revs. Carlton Cross and Dennis Spence officiated, and grandchildren served as pallbearers.

Memorials may be given to Salem United Methodist Church Benton, Memorial Fund, 1647 Salem Road, Benton, AR 72019; or to the First United Methodist Church Monticello, Building Fund, 317 S. Main Street, Monticello, AR 71655.



Harold Spence

UMFA sets up endowment for Russian seminary in memory of Jack E. Hill of Little Rock

An endowment gift to the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) in memory of Jack E. Hill, a long-time member of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Little Rock, will fund scholarships for the Moscow Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church, the primary resource for United Methodist education in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Central Asia.

"Jack traveled to Russia several times and made documentaries about the United Methodist Church there," said Carol Smelley, a fellow Pulaski Heights member. "Like my

husband Wes, he fell in love with the church there and loved the Russian experience."

A nationally acclaimed, award-winning television journalist, Hill took film crews to Russia to produce documentaries regarding the expanding role of the United Methodist Church in that country. One of the films documented the building of a church in Yekaterinburg and another traced the development of the seminary.

Freddie Nixon, a member of the board of trustees of the Moscow Theological Seminary, said that the seminary has 50 students this year.

Dr. Sergei Nikolaev, seminary president since 2008, helps prepare effective UMC pastoral and lay leaders in partnership with the Global Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries.

"It is our hope that the endowment will provide funds to help educate two students per year," Nixon said. "Jack was a life-time, faithful United Methodist. He was very interested in the re-emergence of the United Methodist Church in Russia."

After 73 years of communist rule, the United Methodist Church

re-emerged in Russia in 1992. Bishop Eduard Khagay now presides over 120 churches in five annual conferences in Russia and Eurasia.

"One of the events that Jack filmed was my ordination in 2000," Nikolaev said. "I am happy to have his video and am so grateful that he left such a wonderful financial legacy to the seminary to help prepare other future pastors for the United Methodist Church in Russia and Eurasia. Without such financial support, many people called to ministry would not be able to attend the seminary."

"Jack was there early on,

filming the seminary building's renovation and an ordination ceremony," said Nixon. "It is not so easy to be a United Methodist in Russia. It is inspiring to see how committed the Russian members are to United Methodist ministries."

UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country, managing \$120 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and other United Methodist ministries. Founded in 1963, UMFA is responsible for more than 650 funds that support United Methodist ministries.



Nov. 23 brings 36th annual Ingathering

Ingathering 2013, set for Saturday, Nov. 23, marks the 36th year of this annual supply drive to benefit relief ministries in Arkansas and worldwide. It will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, at Arkansas Rice Depot, 3801 W. 65th Street in Little Rock. The event is sponsored by the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

What is Ingathering?

Truckloads and carloads of health kits, cleaning buckets, bulk items and more will arrive from across the state at the Arkansas Rice Depot for sorting and distribution to anyone in need. Some of the items will go to Arkansans; others will go to Sager Brown Depot, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) distribution center in Baldwin, La. From there, they will make their way to people around the world affected by disaster or need.

This year's event, organized by St. Paul-Maumelle UMC member Brenda Norwood, will include worship, music, refreshments and work organizing the donations for storage and transport.

Supply sorting and a 'potato drop'

Helpers are needed to assist in unloading vehicles and sorting items into their proper locations for packing and storage. Individuals and groups are encouraged to register to volunteer by visiting arumc.org/register.

For several years now, Ingathering also has included a "potato drop" by the Society of St. Andrew. Faithful workers will be needed to move a mountain—of sweet potatoes. The multi-ton truckload of surplus produce must be boxed for distribution to area food pantries, and the more helpers on hand, the faster the job goes.

To download lists of supplies that must be included in the various kits, visit www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

CAMP ALDERSGATE

30TH ANNUAL FISH FRY

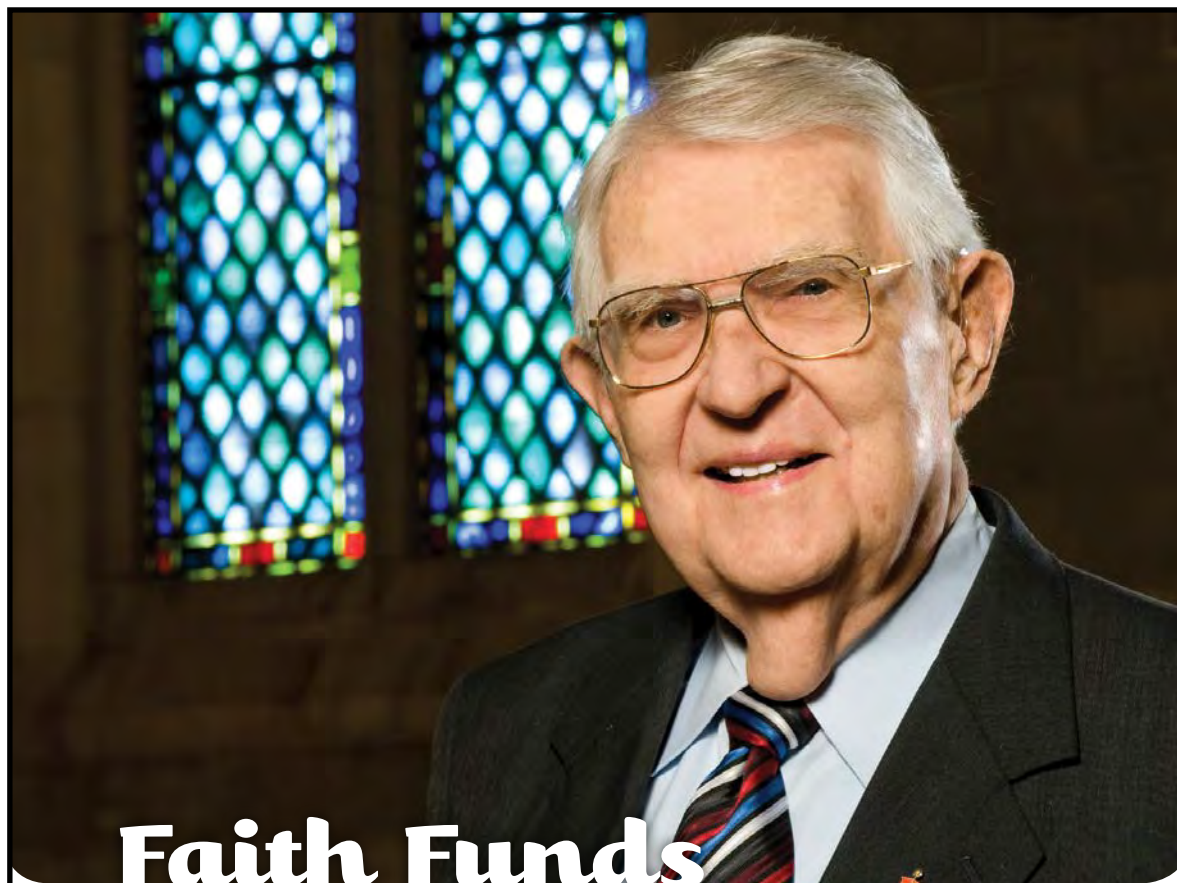
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 12:00PM-3:00PM | TICKETS \$15

fall festival

LIVE MUSIC ~ BAGGO ~ MOBILE AQUARIUM
CUPCAKE WALK ~ COUNTRY STORE*
CAROUSEL RIDES* ~ KIDS FISHING DERBY*
& FUN FALL ACTIVITIES! (*SMALL COST TO PARTICIPATE)

NEW in 2013... PARKING @ PEDIATRICS PLUS... FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE

PURCHASE TICKETS @ WWW.CAMPALDERSGATE.NET {CHILDREN 6 & UNDER FREE}



Faith Funds

Room for Growth

Bishop Kenneth Hicks has a substantial – and concrete – role in the history of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. In 1981 when UMFA President Jim Argue Jr. joined the Foundation, there were very limited operating funds and office space. Soon Bishop Hicks had a door cut from his office to a small conference room to provide additional space for the Foundation. He also allowed his assistant, Janice Goldman, to provide administrative support.

"I helped Jim a bit by offering ideas on who we needed to contact to help grow the Foundation," said Bishop Hicks. "I wanted to encourage him to stay with it. I saw the promise that the Foundation represented, and I believe continuity in leadership has been a key to its great success."

Bishop Hicks thinks the flexibility of the Foundation to fund important ministries that are not budgeted by the Conference is one of its greatest assets. He marvels at the faith of the donors who put their confidence in the Foundation in its early years and those who continue to keep it strong.

"The Foundation holds high the banner for stewardship in our Conference," said Bishop Hicks. "It is the caretaker of hundreds of legacies left by faithful and generous United Methodists across Arkansas."



**The United Methodist
Foundation of Arkansas**

**50 Years of
Faithful Ministry**

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501-664-8632 • Toll free 877-712-1107 • Fax 501-664-6792 • www.umfa.org