

God's glue assembles Mosaic

*Newest church
charters with 160*

By **HOLLY McCRAY**

With 160 charter members on Sept. 13, Mosaic United Methodist Church became official in Oklahoma City.

A high moment of worship was the baptism of fourth-grader Nathan, son of Justin and Rev. Trina Bose North of Edmond. Pastor Scott Spencer used water that Trina had brought from her Holy Land pilgrimage.

Worshippers were invited to reach into the bowl of water during Communion and take small stones to remember this birthday. Musicians performed "Something in the Water."

Three charter members long attended churches that recently closed in Oklahoma City and provided seed for this new church start.

In 1963, Bob and LaWanda May drove past a sign announcing Leland Clegg Methodist Church was opening. They went to worship the first Sunday — but arrived an hour too early. So they ate breakfast with LaWanda's parents before the service started in a former military barracks, Bob said. They



From left: Pastor Scott Spencer with OKC-Mosaic charter members Cheryl Burnet and LaWanda and Bob May.

became Clegg charter members.

Cheryl Burnet is described as a "balcony baby" of Epworth UMC, which had occupied a former university building since 1919. She fondly recalled playing in the children's space developed later on the building's south side.

In December 2014, the Epworth property was sold. And a congregation of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) now meets Sunday mornings in the former Clegg facility.

Mosaic's temporary worship space is Smith Chapel on the Oklahoma City University campus. However, the pastor's office and weekday activities are at the former Clegg church.

Mosaic has gained momentum quickly, said Chuck Nordean, Conference director of New Faith Communities. It's no surprise that Rev. Spencer wore sneakers that Charter Sunday.

Sunday morning worship services began June 7. Classes in August taught theology and policy to people new to Methodism.

Mosaic's people are tutoring and serving snacks at elementary schools, collecting items for Skyline Urban Ministry, and active in the Reconciling Ministries Network. Friendships are growing with North OKC Native American Fellowship members.

"I am so privileged to be with you today," Spencer told the



Photos by Holly McCray

Water from the Holy Land sparkles in Nathan's hair as Scott Spencer baptizes him Sept. 13 at Mosaic UMC.

crowd of 180 people on Sept. 13. He preached on Genesis 3.

"I believe I make a small difference," he said. "Working together, we make a bigger difference, and Mosaic wants to make a huge difference in the world."

Crossroads District Superintendent Rockford Johnson directed the legal steps for chartering, including electing church officers. The people clapped as Eric Brown was approved for Lay Servant Ministry.

Trending local:

Tracking the growing role of Local Pastors in denomination



Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS

Oklahoma Local Pastor Max Rudd blesses a baby during worship at Lost Creek UMC.

By **SAM HODGES**
United Methodist News Service

When multi-site Grace Church in Florida needed a pastor for a new campus, Arlene Jackson got the call. She began with about 30 in worship.

Over five years, her flock in Fort Myers has grown to more than 400. Many were previously "unchurched" and recovering from addictions, as she did. "They're growing in Christ and bringing people and having a lot of joy in their walk with the Lord," she said.

Rev. Jackson is not an ordained elder, the kind of United Methodist pastor who spends three or four years getting a master of divinity degree and makes it through provisional status to become "fully connected," with a guaranteed appointment.

Called in middle age

She's a full-time Local Pastor who answered her call to ministry in middle age. Her training has included a two-week licensing school and the part-time Course of Study required of such pastors.

Local pastors like Jackson are on the rise in the Church in the United States.

Bishop Robert Schnase of Missouri has appointed many local pastors. "We do not presume that every

elder is somehow more gifted than every local pastor," he said.

Mike Mahaffey of Oklahoma, who is president of the National Fellowship of Associate Members & Local Pastors, said the trajectory is clearly toward more respect and authority for local pastors. They can serve in Extension appointments, too.

Changes noted by Oklahomans

Rev. Mahaffey pastors at Fairview-First and Catesby.

On the Facebook page they share, the denomination's local pastors air the occasional complaint about second-class treatment. But things really have improved, said Max Rudd of Oklahoma.

For about 40 years, he's been a local pastor leading Lost Creek UMC south of Stillwater. Average worship attendance has grown from 10 to 200. The rural church spends half its \$400,000 budget on missions.

Rev. Rudd began as a part-time bivocational pastor. These days he's sought out by Oklahoma UM leaders and asked to give presentations on effective church leadership.

"It's been really neat to see local pastors becoming

See Trending local, page 8

Never miss worship on Sunday

*Wherever you are,
watch live on Web*

By **JOSEPH HARRIS**
Director of Communications

One question we often are asked is: Can a church extend the reach of its worship services and sermons beyond the walls by using today's technologies?

That is what live video streaming makes possible.

It provides a way to connect in real time, using the Internet, with people who are not physically in a sanctuary during worship. It is one way to fulfill Christ's call "to go and make disciples of all nations." This technology is wonderful for the Church when used redemptively.

At least 10 Oklahoma United Methodist churches are putting

to good use this communications tool. They regularly are digitally broadcasting their Sunday morning services.

The Department of Communications this summer began placing links to those worship services on the Oklahoma Conference website, www.okumc.org. We will expand the list as we learn of more churches that do this.

Is your church among those with live video streaming? A survey by the Department is asking about that.

When you're away from home — perhaps out of state — or at home because of illness, you do not have to miss church on Sunday. We invite you, wherever you may be, to watch an Oklahoma United Methodist service on your personal digital device.

Furthermore, you aren't limited to watching in real time. Many of these streamed worship services also are archived. You can view past services online at convenient times in your daily schedule. This option is great if you want to catch up on part of a sermon series that you missed.

UMCom offers system

If your church is considering live video streaming, United Methodist Communications' TechShop offers help.

Learn more at <http://myumclive.com/livestreaming>

MyUMCLive offers discounted pricing to United Methodist churches that seek to engage people through these broadcasts. MyUMCLive has some advantages that are not available through free streaming services,

as explained by TechShop.

- Viewers stay on your church's website, where you embed the video player.

- No outside advertising or inappropriate ads or video appear next to your live stream.

- Your church can receive on-line donations when you place a "Donate" button next to the player.

Interested? A team will walk you through setup.

Also, our Department is happy to consult with any church interested in live video streaming. Contact 405-530-2073, to discuss how it might serve your church right now or in the future.

Tell us about your church

Our board of advisers this year has been surveying best practices and uses of technology

**Communications
survey:**
www.okumc.org

throughout the denomination and within annual conferences.

The board's strategy includes a local-church survey because of the goal to identify the state of and individual needs for technology and communications in Oklahoma's churches. The local-church communications survey will be emailed from the Department to churches' Lay Leaders, communications staff, and pastors.

We hope that by getting an accurate picture and relating it to strategic communications planning, the Department can better serve you.

To participate in the survey, you can access it online at: www.okumc.org by November.

First Year Experiences welcome newest class



First-year students and orientation leaders participate in the selfie challenge during opening week events at Oklahoma City University.

Oklahoma City University welcomed the Class of 2019 with the annual matriculation service Aug. 19 and other events.

This class has 322 first-year students and 237 transfer students.

The new OCU Stars made their way to the Kirkpatrick Auditorium for the official service, walking on sidewalks lined with faculty and administrators, cheering them on.

To help the students get comfortable in their new home, a team led by Colbi Beam, coordinator of the First Year Experience, put together a number of events.

At the Welcome Picnic, parents and students met faculty, staff, and administrators in a relaxed atmosphere.

OKConnect introduced students to the Oklahoma City community. Since about 60 percent of OCU's student body comes from out of state, students were given four options to visit notable destinations in the city and then lunch at local restaurants in groups, accompanied by First Year Experience team members. The choices were as follows.

- Oklahoma City National Memorial and S&B's Burger Joint
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art and Big Truck Tacos
- Science Museum Oklahoma and Pizza 23



Embracing the **UNITED METHODIST**
tradition of scholarship and service

- Devon Tower and Empire Slice House

OCUReads enabled incoming students to read and discuss the book "Acts of Faith," by Eboo Patel, founder of Interfaith Youth Core. Patel wrote about how he came to appreciate his own faith community and the value of interfaith cooperation.

This year's book selection prompted the greatest response ever for the OCUReads program; 76 percent of the students reported their participation.

Then 15 students entered the MUSINGS contest, submitting a creative response to the book. These included a handsewn bag of interwoven fabrics and essays and poems representing faith journeys.

The OCU Wesley Center rolled out the welcome mat as well. New students filled Watson Lounge in the Chapel on Shining Stars Movie Night for cotton candy, popcorn, and a screening of "Mrs. Doubtfire," all hosted by the United Methodist campus ministry.

The Chapel also was one of the stops for Passport to the Stars, during

which small groups of students made quick stops around campus to learn how each department can serve their needs.

Director of Religious Life Rodney Newman served on a panel at International Student Orientation.

Rev. Newman highlighted the worship services and meals offered in the Chapel during the year.

Church members and Pastors Jeremy Bassett and Marla Lobo from OKC-Wesley United Methodist helped host the lunch at this orientation. They also worked with OCU's international office to greet students at the airport and offer transportation to the campus.

OCU continues to have a strong connection to the Church among the students themselves.

The Admissions Department reported 256 current students identify as United Methodist.

Last year's classes included 37 UM clergy dependents and 13 CYME graduates. Students in those categories receive reductions in tuition. (CYME = Conference Youth Ministry Enterprise camp)

The Oklahoma United Methodist
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1501 N.W. 24th
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Moving to a new address?
Call 405-530-2075
or send an email to
communications@okumc.org.

Sign up for Contact Digest,
a free e-newsletter, at www.okumc.org.
Send news to editor@okumc.org.
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Strength for the journey:
A collection of ideas and thoughts from our bishop

Closed on Sunday?

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.” (Acts 2: 42-44)

By **BISHOP ROBERT HAYES JR.**

In this age when all things sacred and holy often are secondary to personal cravings and whims, it’s refreshing to see businesses remain that honor the Sabbath Day by closing their doors. Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby is one of a few retail stores and restaurants that close on Sunday, choosing to honor God rather than commerce.



Bishop Hayes

Some of you are old enough to remember the Blue Laws of the 1960s, restricting commercial activities on Sundays. According to the official statement, “While such laws originated to encourage attendance at Christian churches, the intent is to promote the secular values of health, safety, recreation, and general well-being through a common day of rest.” (Supreme Court decision in McGowan v. Maryland, 1961).

At the time I did not make the connection about what buying cars, pots and pans, selected grocery items, office supplies, and housewares had to do with glorifying God’s work. Sections in stores were roped off, preventing customers from buying certain items, and that’s the way it

was. My peers and I never really questioned the practice back then.

But now, reflecting on then, I’ve stumbled upon a question that deserves some thought. It might shock you that I’m even asking, but I must.

How many of our churches are closed on Sunday?

Take a deep breath before you condemn my nerve in asking this. Let me set the stage as to why. Certainly I don’t mean in a literal sense that our churches are closed on the Lord’s Day.

Rather, I wonder how many of our churches go through the motions of worship each week without considering that being open implies certain requirements.

For instance, when the doors open each Sunday at your place of worship, is the environment welcoming? Is the presence of the Holy Spirit invited into that space?

Are you personally open to coming to church in an attitude of worship, seeking to experience God or hear what God has to say to you?

Are you and others who regularly worship at your church open to welcoming new people, to making strangers know you genuinely are happy that they are there?

I am dismayed to hear stories every week about churches that never acknowledge visitors in their midst, neither asking them their names nor inviting them back.

Are you open to leave discord and disagreements outside the doors of your church? Realize that the last place people want to encounter conflict is inside the church.

Are you personally open to participating, learning, volunteering, teaching a class, sharing a word of encouragement or hope?

Again I ask: Are our churches open or closed on Sunday?

The history of the first-century church, as recorded in Acts, tells us that each time those Christians gathered they were

devoted to the teaching by the apostles and to fellowship with each other. They broke bread and prayed together. They were attuned to the “wonders and signs” the apostles performed.

They held all matters in common.

Having everything in common doesn’t mean those earliest Christians agreed on all matters. But their minds and hearts were committed to serving the Risen Lord, and all else was secondary.

The last Bible verse in that chapter says it all: “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”! (Acts 2:47)

In our churches today, we are deeply engaged in devising strategic plans to make and grow disciples and to halt the decline in the number of United Methodists. We undertake great programs and activities that keep us busy. We spend a lot of resources on making houses of worship comfortable and appealing. We vision a future where people of all ages will find sacred spaces where they feel called to belong. Considering all these efforts, it appears that we truly are doing God’s work.

I declare this as fact: None of these will succeed if our churches are closed on Sunday.

Growing the church begins and ends with you and me! If we don’t live out the United Methodist motto of “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,” we might as well close.

The next time you step into your house of worship on Sunday, look around from this perspective that I have placed before you.

See if your church is open. And if you see it is not the case, ask the Holy Spirit to help YOU start to change that! (No Blue Laws stand in your way!)



Will you help?

**Disaster Volunteer Days
in central Oklahoma**

Saturday, Oct. 24
Monday-Thursday, Oct. 26-29
Saturday, Nov. 14

<http://okumc-dr.org>

- All skill levels welcome
- Housing available
- Must be 16 or older
- Advance registration required (at least 5 days prior to workday)

Appointments

Michelle “Shelly” Daigle, from associate pastor at Tulsa-St. Paul’s UMC to Circle of Care family specialist, effective Sept. 1.

Nathan Mills, from Fort Cobb/Highland to Elgin, effective Oct. 1.

Sheri Lashley, from Leave of Absence to Fort Cobb/Highland, effective Oct. 1.

Linda Brinkworth, from Honorable Location at OKC-St. Luke’s to retirement, effective Sept. 1.

Steven Brant, from Tuttle UMC to Leave of Absence, effective Oct. 1.

Coy Remer, from Elgin UMC to Pond Creek UMC, effective Oct. 1.

Kristen Melton, from Canton/Loyal to chaplain at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Oklahoma City, effective Oct. 1.

Linda Pope, from Hunter/Garber to retirement, effective Oct. 1.

Michelle McCarty, from Jefferson/Kremlin to Hunter/Jefferson, effective Oct. 1.

Rick Forthman, from Helena UMC to retirement, effective Oct. 1.

A full day of fun!

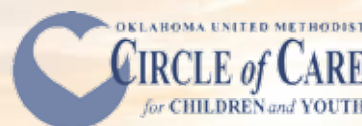
Benefit Rodeo and Basket Auction

Saturday, October 17

High Noon ‘til 3 p.m.



5K race starts at 8 a.m. and benefits
Volunteers in Mission. Sign up:
[https://runsignup.com/Race/OK/Gore/
SodaStevessRootBeerRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/OK/Gore/SodaStevessRootBeerRun)



**United Methodist
Boys Ranch**
Gore, Oklahoma

Questions? Want to volunteer?
918-487-5281

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES — This national group convened in Oklahoma City to discuss Generation Transformation, which engages young adults in missions. It is part of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). From left are: Glenn Rowley of Virginia; Danielle Slingsby of Alaska; Sarah Nichols, Oklahoma's director of Young Adult Mission & Service; Pat Simpson of Washington; Kristina Thorson and Ceewin Louder, US-2s; Naomi Madsen of New York City; Heidi Aspinwall of Florida; and Liz Lee, also New York City. Several besides Nichols have distinct Oklahoma ties. Rowley and Aspinwall are originally from this state. Thorson served here 2013-15; Louder is serving at OKC-Quail Springs Church, 2014-16.



New Global Mission Fellow works with kids

By CHRIS SCHUTZ

Sarah Hundley discovered a love for mission work in the eighth grade. Now a college graduate, she has brought her passion from Virginia to Oklahoma City, where she is working with underprivileged children as a new Global Mission Fellow US-2.

"I love it. I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be," said Hundley, 24, who describes herself as a third-generation preacher's kid. She has committed to two years of working with The Gallery, an after-school program at OKC-Mayfair Heights United Methodist Church.

The program picks up students from four elementary schools in the Oklahoma City and Putnam City districts, Hundley said.

Her role at The Gallery is to work with the children to keep them on the correct reading level. The students will also do art projects.

"I've got some ideas for art and contacts with artists around Oklahoma City," Hundley said. She also plans to incorporate ideas from other US-2s.

"I'm hoping to build The Gallery program up," she said. The program started at the former St. John's UMC, especially reaching out to Hispanic students, and was



Photo by Chris Schutz

Sarah Hundley watches the class as Mariana Garcia, 10, does her homework at The Gallery.

transferred to Mayfair Heights this summer.

At The Gallery, Hundley follows Kristina Thorson, who returned to her home state, Washington, after completing her two years as a US-2 young adult missionary in Oklahoma.

When she was an eighth-grader, Hundley helped with hurricane relief in Florida. An Appalachian service project followed in her ninth-grade year. She has served food to homeless people and helped with highway cleanups. There was mission work in Brazil

and also in Mississippi, where she helped to rebuild homes after another hurricane.

Through this early work, "I found my passion and my love," she said.

The idea of becoming a US-2 came from her father, Stephen Hundley, a Virginia Conference clergyman who is on loan as executive director of connectional ministries for the California-Pacific Conference.

In the future, the University of Mary Washington graduate hopes to work in some capacity as an editor or to continue in mission work. "Or figure out a way to do both," she said. She has a degree in English literature.

Hundley is one of 15 United Methodist US-2s who were commissioned in July to serve two years in U.S. faith and justice ministries. You can help support her with gifts to General Board of Global Ministries missionary number 3022080.

Other Global Mission Fellows serve internationally. All are between ages 20 and 30.

For more information about the Fellows program, contact Sarah Nichols, snichols@okumc.org, 405-530-2008. She directs Oklahoma's Young Adult Mission & Service ministries.



Seminary President Sharon Howell, left, offers Holy Communion to Chapel Coordinator Melissa Pearce on Sept. 1 at the Opening Convocation of the academic year for Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. Pearce, a Saint Paul alumnae, has a master's in divinity.

Seminary Lite begins 2015-16 series

The fall session of Seminary Lite, a theological education program especially for Oklahoma laity, is under way. This program is made possible by Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University.

The evening courses are held at OKC-Church of the Servant, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- "United Methodist Heritage." Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. South Adult Classrooms 1 and 2
- "Introduction to Theology." Nov. 12 and 19. North Adult Classroom 12.

Direct questions to Rachel McClain, 405-208-5757, OCUevent@spst.edu
www.spst.edu/laity/

Oct. 31 event for all sponsored by 'Strengthening the Black Church'

Build up your God-given talents to help build God's Kingdom at a spiritual event Oct. 31 in Oklahoma City, presented through the Oklahoma Conference program "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century" (SBC-21).

All people are welcome. SBC-21 is an initiative of the denomination.

The conference will be held at OKC-The Christ Experience United Methodist Church, at NW 17th and Kelly.

Theme is "Committed Disciples Committed to Building God's Kingdom," based on Matthew 28:16-20. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with praise and worship starting at



Lee



Stephens



Wilson



Jackson

10. The conference will conclude at 3 p.m.

United Methodist pastors and laity are presenters: Revs. Nick Lee, Stephanie Stephens, and Ernest Jackson Jr., and layman Leon Wilson. Directing worship will be Valerie Steele and Erica Thomas.

Among the topics is "Committed to Spiritual Gifts and Strengths."

"Come explore and experience what it means to be committed

to discipleship and building the Kingdom of God," said Rev. Jackson, who chairs Oklahoma's SBC-21.

To sign up, email registration@christchurchokc.org by Oct. 26. Childcare will be provided and requires preregistration.

Youths mix mission and CYME biz

To help pack meals for Oklahomans in need, United Methodist teens reported to the Regional Food Bank on Aug. 29 in Oklahoma City. Their service was part of CCYM Mission Day/Youth Summit. After lunch provided by Yukon-Good Shepherd UMC, they elected officers and made future plans. (CCYM = Conference Council on Youth Ministry)



Left: At the Youth Summit on Aug. 29, nine were elected to lead the CCYM. Shown at front are (from left) Riley Mainord of Fairview-First, student co-chair in training; Lauren Sloan of Yukon-Good Shepherd, Youth Service Fund; Laley Braucher of Claremore-First, chaplain; Kendall Willis, also of Claremore, secretary; and Oakley Neel of Tulsa-Boston Avenue, Jurisdictional Youth Team member. At back are: Jay Williams of Wewoka, student co-chair; Matthew Patrick of OKC-Nichols Hills, adult co-chair; Cale Harmon, also of Fairview, Jurisdictional Youth Team member; and Adam Brinson of Muskogee-St. Paul, adult co-chair.



A smiling Katelyn Troughbaugh, foreground, apports bulk food during the CCYM Mission Day at the Regional Food Bank. She is youth director at Shattuck church. Watching her is Hunter Purgason, also from Shattuck.

Young people confront human exploitation

By HOLLY McCRAJ

A group of young United Methodists took up a heavy subject: human trafficking. They did their homework, and now they're equipping more people of faith to take action on the global problem.

A symposium Sept. 26 drew more than 60 people to gain knowledge and resources, sponsored by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) and other groups.

"This is heavy stuff," presenters warned about the subject matter.

Abusive child labor and coerced sex work are some ways people are exploited today — yes, in Oklahoma, too. Participants saw the video "Not My Life," in which a woman spoke of being abducted in the state and forced into prostitution.

"Often we talk about people as a group and forget their humanity," said speaker Susan Greer Burton. She desires "a society based on collaboration, not domination."

She is director of Women's & Children's Advocacy, General Board of Church & Society.

Greer said she spent a lot of time "in tears" at the first educational program she attended about human trafficking. "Girls sold for sex may be sold 30 times a night to make their quota."

Methodists have opposed slavery since the 1700s, when



Gillian Hasty, left, and Kallie Olson created the slide show "Myths vs Reality."

John Wesley condemned it.

"How do people of faith interrupt the supply and demand of human trafficking?" Greer asked.

Action plans began to take shape at the symposium, held in the Oklahoma City University chapel.

Small groups saw promoting awareness as a common first step.

Prague UMC teens brainstormed a high-school assembly, with advance posters listing a different fact each day. Weatherford may host an informal program in a park. A Laverne girl envisioned a

superhero theme to help students value diversity.

Edmond-First youths want to start a Twitter discussion with #OklahomaIsStuckInTraffick.

In symposium workshops, Blake Lemons taught a simulation game, Josie Worthington explained the global manufacturing trek of a T-shirt, and Sarah Nichols presented "Debunking Myths."

Young Oklahomans who studied the human trafficking issue during recent Conference Youth UN/DC Tours are available to present to your church group. The video "Not My Life" can be checked out by contacting Diana Northcutt, dnorthcutt@okumc.org, 405-530-2144.

Other resources are www.SlaveryFootprint.org and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Employment

Music Ministry: Sand Springs UMC. Contemporary Worship Leader, part-time. **Traditional Music Coordinator,** part-time. Email resume to office@sandspringsumc.org.

Pianist: Locust Grove-First UMC. Part-time. Contact Matthew Franks, 918-479-6356 or fumclgok@gmail.com.

Three part-time positions: Tulsa-Faith UMC. Youth Ministry Associate, Youth Music Leader, and Contemporary Music Assistant Leader. For more information, go to www.faithtulsa.org/jobs

Tween Ministries Director: Tulsa-Faith UMC. Half-time. Email resume to James Lambert, jlambert@faithtulsa.org.

Church Business Manager: Tulsa-New Haven UMC. Part-time. Associate or bachelor's degree in business or related work experience. Email resume to cindy.havlik@newhavenumc.org.

Choir Director: Moore-New Life UMC. Part-time. Contact Kathy Brown, 405-794-8393 or rev.kathybrown@gmail.com

Preschool Ministry Director: OKC-New Hope. Part-time. Contact Cali Depue Eck, 405-721-5015 or cali@newhopeokc.org.

Church Office Manager: Norman-St. Stephen's UMC. Full-time. Email resume to revjeankc@aol.com.

Custodian: OKC-Chapel Hill. Part-time, evenings and weekends. Email resume to Brock Peters, brock@mychapelhill.org.

Coordinator of Worship: Duncan-St. Paul's. Part-time. Ability to play guitar a plus. Email resume to Andrew Haire, acdhair@gmail.com.

Child Care Director: OKC-Mosaic. Part-time. Mail resume with cover letter to Mosaic United Methodist Church, Attn: SPRC, 102 E. Hefner Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73114.

Child Care Assistant: OKC-Mosaic. Part-time. (Address above.)

Children's Ministry Intern: OKC-Mosaic. Part-time. Contact Scott Spencer at 405-751-0766. (Address above.)



Riding the circuit

Painted as a modern woman, Susannah Wesley joins Yolanda Faye Perry, left, and Pam Cottrill for a recent luncheon at Oklahoma Heart Hospital-South. The portrait Susannah is making appearances on behalf of the Conference's Commission on the Status & Role of Women (COSROW). Watch for her! She accompanies Rev. Cottrill, who chairs COSROW. Susannah Wesley (1669-1742) is especially known as the mother of John, founder of Methodism, and Charles, poet and hymn writer. The painting is by Debra Hogue, a student at UCO.

Save the date

- **Nov. 6-7**
"Come Alive"
in Tulsa
Presented by Young Adult Ministry Team
(Program similar to TED talks)
Sign up by Oct. 15:
www.okumcca.eventbrite.com

- **Nov. 7**
Open House
at Egan Camp
(Celebrating 70 years)

- **Nov. 13-15**
Cookson Hills Center
"Toole Tyme"
(United Methodist Women in mission service)

Births

Lisbeth Hughes-Ruddell was born Sept. 12, 2015. She is the daughter of Chris Ruddell and Rev. Crystal Hughes, pastor at OKC-Douglas Boulevard.

Passages

James "Jim" Wingate of Pace, Fla., died Sept. 17. He was the father of Revs. Wanda Littrell, of Fitzhugh UMC, and Steve Littrell, of Konawa UMC.

Doris "Dee" Pawley of Claremont, Calif., died Sept. 22. She was the mother of Rev. Pam Cottrill of OKC-Seleman.

Harvey Brannon of Broken Arrow died Sept. 10. He was the father of Rev. Cal Brannon, retired, of Norman.

Delegations invited to gather in Oklahoma

Oklahoma will welcome delegations from eight states Oct. 28-29 for an informational meeting about the 2016 General and South Central Jurisdictional Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

Lay and clergy delegates elected by their peers in 12 annual conferences within the jurisdiction will network at OKC-St. Luke's Church.

Hosts are Linda Harker and Don Kim, who lead the 34-member Oklahoma Conference delegation.

Global and regional UM meetings are next year

Topics are expected to include legislative proposals and committee service for the global General Conference, set for mid-May in Portland, Ore., as well as introduction of the candidates for bishop who have been officially endorsed.

The South Central Jurisdiction will be in session in Wichita, Kan., next July. David Severe of Oklahoma is the SCJ executive director, responsible for the smooth operation of that event.

State's 34 delegates discuss managing conflict

At the Sept. 19 meeting of Oklahoma's delegation, the group agreed to center its work in core values from 1 Corinthians 13, Micah 6:6-8, Mark 12:28-31, Galatians 5:22, and Colossians 3.

Bob Long talked about Oklahoma traditions. Jessica Seay gave advice on managing conflict.

Different viewpoints over societal changes have led some people to speculate

Letter from Philippines Missionary Alexander to welcome athletes

Athletes from six private colleges in the Philippines are preparing to meet at Asbury College, Anda, Philippines, for track and field competitions Oct. 22-23.

It will be the first time for the United Methodist college on the island of Anda to host this event, according to a letter from Marsha Gail Alexander, college director.

About 700 people are expected to attend.

"It is always exciting to do something for the first time that has not been done before in the island," wrote Rev. Alexander, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). She is originally from Oklahoma.

A field at the college is being graded to prepare it, Alexander said. "To have a real track and field has been a dream for many decades now and finally it will become reality," she said.

Classes at the 400-student school begin at the elementary level and extend to college-level instruction. A total of 153

students are GBGM scholars.

Alexander also reported other Asbury College highlights.

- A six-room, two-story elementary building is under construction.

- Donors and Volunteers in Mission teams are helping renovate deteriorated and termite-damaged buildings used by the high school.

- Students are donating money toward a chapel. Asbury has never had a chapel, Alexander said.

- A 69th anniversary celebration in February 2016.

- A 70th anniversary fundraiser the following year. A graduate has challenged alumni and friends to donate \$70 each to the school.

- 17 student teachers are doing off-campus practice teaching.

Asbury is UM Advance Project No. 3021056; Alexander is No. 10772z.



Photo by Brant Mills

PREPARING FOR TRANSITION — Episcopal staff from across the South Central Jurisdiction gave support to one another at a September conference in Houston about the 2016 transition of bishops. Standing from left are: Nancy Hinshaw (Texas), Diane Lippitt (Northwest Texas/New Mexico), Pam Weatherford of Oklahoma (Bishop Robert Hayes' administrative assistant), Rose Kuonen (Arkansas), Dala Dunn (Missouri), and Kathy Moore (Louisiana). Seated are JoAnn McClain (Council of Bishops), Barb Campbell (Great Plains Conference), Dalia Trevino (Rio Texas), and Patty Wood (Central Texas). One presenter was Don House, who chairs the SCJ Episcopacy Committee.

whether the denomination will hold together when the General Conference meets, the United Methodist News Service (UMNS) recently reported.

There have been serious disagreements before on social, theological, and church governance issues, Alfred Day III, of the General Commission on Archives & History, told UMNS.

The lens of history allows the Church to take a longer view and discover that "some-

how, God and the Spirit are in the process" all along. "I think we don't give ourselves enough credit," he said.

The larger cultural currents that have been part of the General Conference experience since the 1960s are summarized in the book "United Methodism at 40."

Four years ago, Oklahoma also invited SCJ delegates to St. Luke's for a networking event, preceding the quadrennial conferences of 2012. Sixty percent of them attended.



Pam Ferguson, right, greets young Hattie Gann on Sept. 13 at the front steps of Marlow-First United Methodist Church on Main Street. Below, historic photos and other displays of memorabilia drew out lots of memories from participants attending the church's 125th anniversary day. From left are Marylou Mahaffey, Gail Bailey, and Ramona McWatters.

Photos by Laura Dysart

Old is renewed in Marlow

Marlow-First UMC recently celebrated 125 years with a new worship service, food from a new restaurant in town, and a new sermon series.

That's a great way to step into the next 125 years!

On Sept. 13, early worship in the sanctuary began at 9:15 a.m. Senior Pastor Matt Scrapper launched his sermon series "The Word Became Flesh: Six of the Greatest Verses in the Bible." A new music team led this new, informal service, which is called SonLight.

Wichita District Superintendent Chris Tiger was featured in the main service at 10:45, as the church celebrated its milestone.

The day included catered BBQ, inflatable games for the children, and browsing displays of church history throughout the main facility and youth building.



"For 125 years, our community of faith has been a fixture in Marlow. We have sustained the community in times of grief and loss and celebrated countless joys, homecomings, and successes," said Rev. Scrapper.

Theme for 2015 is "A Year of Gratitude: Thought. Word. Deed."

Events help Christians in OKC to network in prayer

By ALOISE MCCULLOUGH

It was an experience of Church without walls and dividing lines.

The Greater Oklahoma Prayer Conference on Sept. 11-13 was the foundational event for the newly formed Greater Oklahoma City Prayer Network.

The event included four tent revival services at Glenn Ellyn Park in northeast Oklahoma City and a one-day prayer conference at OKC-Quayle United Methodist Church.

About 300 people attended the events.

Featured revivalist was Bishop Raphael Greene, Metro Worship Center, St. Louis, Mo. He gave three profound messages about drawing closer to God and away from distractions.

In a significant moment in the park, more than a dozen people answered an altar call as worshippers lifted their voices

and hands in praise to God, singing both traditional and contemporary songs.

Theme was "How Deep is the Hunger?"

A unique component of the conference was the setup of "prayer rooms," adapted from a Houston pastor's concept. Participants could pray with both clergy and lay volunteers for their needs in areas that included healing and wisdom, as well as talk with counselors.

The one-day segment at Quayle also featured a prayer breakfast and "power" luncheon, group discussions at "prayer tables," liturgical and hip-hop dances, the ministry of sign language, and more.

Planning started with an idea for connecting people through prayer by Semaj Vazant Sr., pastor-teacher at OKC-The Christ Experience United Methodist Church. He shared his vision with Quayle's Senior Pastor Victor McCullough and Prayer Coordinator Jeanette Smith. The two churches united

Briefly

Pledge addresses environment

The Environmental Coalition urges churches and individuals to sign the Paris Pledge about fossil fuels, announced UM deaconess Pat Hoerth.

The Coalition, chaired by Mark Davies, is a subgroup of the Oklahoma Conference Board of Church & Society.

The pledge is circulating prior to a United Nations Climate Change Conference that begins Nov. 30 in Paris, France. Signers pledge to cut their carbon footprint 50 percent by 2030 and to be carbon-neutral by 2050. (www.parispledge.org)

Hoerth pointed to paragraph 160.D of the Church's *Social Principles*: "We acknowledge the global impact of humanity's disregard for God's creation ... We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions."

The Paris Pledge tells world leaders that people are committed to reduce fossil fuel use and move to alternative energy sources "so that creation can heal and sustain all life on Earth," Hoerth said.

She listed resources: www.coolcongregations.org and the Oklahoma chapter of Interfaith Power & Light website.

Skyline adds worship

Worship is part of Saturday operating hours, new at Skyline Urban Ministry in Oklahoma City.

Each Saturday, the Food Resource Center and Clothes Closet are open from 9 to 11 a.m. A meal is served at 11, followed by "Prayer and Healing" at 11:30.

Church groups are asked to consider food drives and volunteering service at Skyline, a United Methodist-related mission.

Last month, the mission assisted 2,300 people, according to its October newsletter. www.SkylineUrbanMinistry.org

2016 Oklahoma Conference Calendars

Order your Conference Calendars online now at www.okumc.org

- The calendar is a helpful tool in local church planning. (It includes important Oklahoma United Methodist dates, the lectionary, and liturgical colors for the year)

Cost is \$10 each.

Now in the DVD library

Two new video resources are available for free loan to your study group from the DVD Library at the United Methodist Ministry Center in Oklahoma City.

■ "Making Sense of The Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today," by Adam Hamilton. The video consists of six sessions, each 10 to 12 minutes long. It addresses questions such as these three: Who decided which books made it into the Bible and why? How literally must we read it? Is the Bible ever wrong? Closed-captioned.

■ "Joseph: The Journey to Forgiveness," by Melissa Spoelstra, a popular women's conference speaker, Bible teacher, and author. This six-week study explores what God has to say to us about grace and forgiveness, based on Joseph's story of trial and triumph found in Genesis 37-50. Each segment lasts about 25 minutes. Closed-captioned; with leader guide and preview book.

View all the DVD resources available in the library at: www.okumc.org/dvd_library

For more information, contact Chris Schutz, 405-530-2075, cschutz@okumc.org.

"What we need is a fresh outpouring of God's power on us, our churches, and the people of faith everywhere."

Rev. Vanzant said the programming showed solidarity with a common mission of reaching others for Christ through prayer and consecration, and drew others into that.

"We are stronger together," he said. "Anytime we try to institute a divide, we only harm ourselves trying to be selfish."

"I think both churches are better for it, (and) not just the churches, but the community. I think it's a truer representation of the 'Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors' (United Methodist motto)."

The Prayer Conference was a "catalyst" to kick off the network, he said.

For more information about the Greater Oklahoma Prayer Network including upcoming events, call Quayle Church, 405-424-2770. More contact options are TBA.



Legacy Planning Using an IRA–CRUT

During your lifetime, an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is an excellent asset. It grows tax free, the minimum withdrawals under the regulations are fairly modest, and it provides both retirement income and liquidity for the IRA owner.

However, for the children or other individual heirs of the IRA owner, the IRA is not nearly as desirable an asset.

Many other assets will be distributed to family or other heirs free of income, capital gains, or estate tax, but with the IRA frequently comes a very large income tax bill.

All distributions from the IRA to the individual heirs are taxable income. Worse yet, the IRA payouts, even if stretched over a long period, are added on to the recipient's taxable income and could increase his or her tax bracket.

John and Mary raised a family of four children. Four years ago, when John

passed away, all of his assets transferred to Mary. She received the house, the CDs, the securities, and John's IRA.

Mary rolled over John's IRA and added in her IRA, to total \$600,000 in the IRA. She also has about \$600,000 in other assets.

Mary desires to have her four children benefit equally, but faces a challenge common to parents.

Two of the children are very good money managers, one is a marginal money manager, and one is quite creative and a terrible money manager. If Mary transfers the assets equally to all four, the creative child will use those assets in new and wonderful ways in perhaps three weeks.

Mary thinks it more desirable in the circumstances to "diversify" the inheritance.

A way to provide for zero estate taxes, eliminate the income tax on the IRA, and diversify the inheritance is to

use a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). Upon Mary's death, her stocks, bonds, home, and other assets are transferred outright to the children. However, the taxable assets (IRA) are transferred to a testamentary term of 20 years CRUT.

Her beneficiary designation is then changed to the trustee of the CRUT.

Fortunately, under the new Sec. 408 regulations, this does not change her minimum distribution requirement for the IRA.

When Mary passes away, her diversification goal for the inheritance is achieved.

The children receive approximately \$576,000, after costs of \$24,000 outright. The remaining \$600,000 IRA asset is transferred to a 5% CRUT for a term of

20 years. Since the CRUT is exempt, there is no tax paid on the ordinary income.

The full \$600,000 from the IRA is then invested and earns new income for the children for the term of 20 years. While this is taxable, over \$725,000 is paid to the children during the term of years.

At the end of the term, the IRA plus growth provides a very nice endowment for the benefit of John and Mary's church.

If you would like a personalized illustration of the IRA CRUT, please contact David Battles, CPA, at 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org. There is no obligation and all inquiries are confidential.

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Trending local:

Continued from page 1

a more vital part of the ministry," Rudd said.

The upward trend with local pastors comes as ordained elders are becoming rarer.

The General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) reports that, from 2010 to 2015, the number of ordained/provisional elders serving churches dropped from 15,806 to 14,614. Local pastors appointed to churches climbed from 6,193 to 7,569 in that time.

More and more churches can't afford the minimum salary and benefits required for an elder, said Bishop Thomas Bickerton of Western Pennsylvania.

Lovett Weems, director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, noted that baby-boomer elders continue to retire at high rates and that 55 percent of active elders are age 55 or older.

Costs challenge churches

Combined with more churches struggling to afford an elder — even when sharing costs among multiple charges — he thinks that will boost part-time pastor numbers.

Oklahoma's leadership foresees that happening and has created an Academy for Part-Time Bivocational Pastors to groom 150 such clergy.

Nearly 250 of Oklahoma's 488 chartered churches have budgets under \$80,000.

"We're trying to find committed, trustworthy laity who are indigenous to the area, who do not see the church as a career, but who follow Jesus and have a heart to help others know, love, and follow him, too," said B. Craig Stinson, director of Connectional Ministries.

Annual conferences vary widely, but West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, and Red Bird



Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS

In West Virginia, Earl Bible shepherds two flocks: Seneca Rocks UMC and the sheep at his farm. He is a licensed local pastor.

Missionary Conferences had more local pastors than elders serving churches as of Summer 2015, according to GCFA.

Many mid-size to large churches now have local pastors as associates. But most local pastors lead small churches.

One of them is Dennis Miller. He studied accounting and then went to law school. As a young attorney, he wrote the warranty deed for Aldersgate UMC in Nixa, Mo.

But Rev. Miller, a lifelong United Methodist, soon left the law to answer a call to full-time youth ministry. By then he

was married and had a child with a serious medical condition.

Stopping for seminary wasn't practical.

Aldersgate, now pastored by Miller, has grown from 250 to more than 600 in average worship attendance.

In Missouri, Bishop Schnase has a full-time local pastor, Jeff Baker, serving as director of mission, service, and justice ministries — a Cabinet-level post.

At Lake Highlands UMC in Dallas, Pam Clark, another full-time local pastor, is longtime director of community ministries. Lake Highlands under Rev. Clark operates a food pantry and evangelizes through a storefront church and bilingual Bible studies in apartment complexes.

How much education?

While denominational leaders seem unanimous in praising local pastors' willingness to serve, often at financial sacrifice, questions linger about their theological training.

A high school education — not college — is required for Course of Study.

The Course of Study consists of 20 classes, covering the Bible, ethics, preaching, evangelism, worship and sacraments, and more. Many classes are taught in two-week summer residencies, with readings and papers assigned in advance.

Church leaders may disagree about whether increasing dependence on part-time pastors is good, but there's little doubt the trend will intensify.

About 78 percent of U.S. churches averaged fewer than 100 people in worship in 2013, according to GCFA.

Local pastors' authority is limited to their parishes. (They have to get permission to do a wedding elsewhere.) They aren't eligible to be a district superintendent or bishop. Nor can they be clergy delegates to General or Jurisdictional Conferences.

(This story is from a 10-part series. Read more at www.umc.org/topics/the-growing-role-of-local-pastors.)