

# LEGACIES

FALL 2022

## MFA, Project Transformation Celebrate First Year Program Success

By Amy Anderson

I am so excited to share with you the amazing work that The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas' grant recipient, Project Transformation is doing in Arkansas. It just completed its inaugural year of camp serving over 55 children in the Pine Bluff area. How did Project Transformation get started here in Arkansas? I'm glad you asked. It was founded in Dallas in 1998 and has grown to serve nine different Annual Conferences. It provides two key services in its communities. The first one is leadership development and vocational exploration opportunities for college-age adults through paid internships. The second is to provide community-oriented summer programs for children focused on literacy and social-emotional health.

Project Transformation Arkansas (PT Arkansas) was established through the Arkansas Conference's Culture of Calling, which focuses on the recruitment and retention of clergy. To further support PT Arkansas, they partnered with the 200K More Reasons Initiative, which works to end childhood hunger in the state of Arkansas. Rev. Sam Meadors, Executive Director, noticed that there were food insecurities in the area, particularly with local children. Additionally, young adults were leaving the church and the churches

didn't really look like their communities. Not only does PT Arkansas address all of those areas, but has already had an amazing impact on the delta region.

This summer's program lasted 7 ½ weeks and hosted over 55 children for four days each week. These children were given breakfast and lunch (that's over 1800 meals being served!), and had each day filled with activities, with a large part of those being focused on literacy. The camps were hosted by two local United Methodist churches, St. Luke and Lakeside. However, there were members from seven churches who read one-on-one with the children and dozens who provided meals and support. So, it truly was a community endeavor bringing together the churches and those in the community.

And a quick note about PT Arkansas' focus on literacy for the campers...84% of the children who attended either maintained or increased their literacy skills. At the end of the summer, they held a carnival-themed celebration at Pine Bluff's St. James UMC for everyone who was involved with the program along with their families. Not only was this a celebration for the end of camp, but an

opportunity for these families to start making a connection and relationship with the church. "This first summer would not have been possible without the support of the

continued inside



**OUT &  
ABOUT  
WITH  
AMY**

Amy Anderson  
Northwest Arkansas Development Officer

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## A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

### Behind-the-Scenes People

When you attend a play, concert, or musical, you often have a program that describes the event and includes information about the performers and people behind the scenes who made the event possible. After the production, the performers will be on stage to thank the audience, but it also allows the audience to thank the performers. You never get to see or thank people behind the scenes—the light crew, stage designers, assistants, etc.

In the 16th chapter of Romans, you will find a long list of names Paul is thanking for helping with all his work—26 to be exact. These are the people from diverse backgrounds who contributed to the success of the church in a variety of ways. There are so many unnamed people in the Bible who were behind-the-scenes people. Their contributions to the church and faith are unmeasurable yet very important and significant. It's nice to see at least 26 people listed in this chapter.

Most of us are “behind-the-scenes” people. We probably will not be in the lead role or thanked publicly for all our contributions to our families, church, workplace, and communities. Many of us positively impact a few people, most of whom will never be known. Paul reminds us that the behind-the-scenes people have a great deal they have contributed and should be thanked for all they have been and done.

The Foundation has multiple ways to help you continue being the best behind-the-scenes person you can be and have that work live on. Contact us for more information.

BLESSINGS,  
Wayne



The Foundation hosted Arkansas clergy and laity at the 2022 New Room Conference in Franklin, TN, on September 21-23, 2022.

*Pictured: Clark and Anderson with our lunch guests.*

## Collins Receives 2022 Nancy McDonald Wood Scholarship Award

Magnolia Collins has been chosen as the recipient of the Nancy McDonald Wood Scholarship for the year 2022-2023 academic year. 'Known as "Maggie", the latest scholar is a member of the FUMC in Little Rock and a graduate of Central High School .

Established in 1995, the scholarship is awarded annually to an Arkansas United Methodist

young woman and hopes to encourage lifelong service to the church and her community. In her application, Collins referred to "my own Mother, Heather Collins, established a foundation in Methodism by pushing me to challenge comfort for the sake of helping others who are less fortunate." In high school, Maggie was active in journalism, volleyball, and

the Madrigals in addition to tutoring with the the Academic Support Center.



Magnolia Collins

Maggie has begun classes at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville saying her choice was made because "it is just far enough from home that I can grow into my own person."

An application for the 2023 Nancy McDonald Wood scholarship may be found by visiting the Arkansas Conference of the UMC at [arumc.org](http://arumc.org) or our website at [methodistfoundationAR.org](http://methodistfoundationAR.org).

### PROJECT TRANSFORMATION *continued*

Foundation," Meadors said. Project Transformation is something near and dear to the heart of Rev. Meadors. She was introduced to the program and participated as a student intern when she was in college. At this time in her life, she was not considering the ministry but realized that there was ministry beyond the pulpit and started thinking about her calling which ultimately led to her becoming a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She experienced firsthand the impact this program had not only on the children being served, but on the young adults who might be considering to leave

the church altogether. This year, PT Arkansas' interns consisted of six young adults from six different colleges. Half of these interns were from the Pine Bluff area, and all of them lived in dorms at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for the summer. In addition to working with these children and churches, they were able to learn more about some of the non-profits in the area such as Canvas Community and Methodist Family Health. They even visited the Arkansas Conference Office and learned more about the church. These experiences reinforced to these young adults the importance of their internship and the call to ministry. After the summer



concluded, each intern was asked to give a six-word memoir about their experience. One young woman was from Ghana and had sacrificed quite a bit to come to Arkansas to serve as an intern. Her memoir was "From Fearfully Overwhelmed to Fearlessly Overcome". Wow. In such a short time, this young woman found support, help, and hope and all because of her experience with PT Arkansas.

PT Arkansas is just getting started. In addition to continuing the summer program in this area, they hope to expand and offer an after-school program and eventually serve other locations across the state. Their long-term goal is that these experiences have such an impact on the kids that they are excited to come back and serve as an intern. To learn more, visit [projecttransformation.org/Arkansas](http://projecttransformation.org/Arkansas) or reach out to Rev. Sam Meadors at 501-650-0565 or [smeadors@ptarkansas.org](mailto:smeadors@ptarkansas.org).

# PHOTOS: The Foundation at Work



*Top left: Rev. Lynn Kilbourne offered the morning devotional at the National Association of United Methodist Foundations' annual gathering in San Antonio, TX; Altar flowers from the Foundation on display at First UMC, Bentonville; Rev. Mackey Yokem, Kilbourne, and Cathy Hall at Mission u 2022; Guests of the Foundation at Methodist Family Health's Southern Silks fundraiser; Amy Anderson packs backpacks at the Samaritan Community Center in Rogers with Rev. James Kjorlaug; Hall hosted the Philander Smith College Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management for a day-long training at our Little Rock office; Yokem, Clarence E. Trice, Emily Madden, and Hall deliver bottled water to Little Rock's Canvas Community United Methodist Church.*





## MARKET UPDATE

Clarence E. Trice  
Senior Vice-President & CEO

| Investment Pool | \$ (millions) | 1 Year Return<br><i>Benchmark</i> | Avg. 3 Year Return<br><i>Benchmark</i> | Avg. 5 Year Return<br><i>Benchmark</i> | Avg. 10 Year Return<br><i>Benchmark</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Blended Pool    | \$119.2       | -21.4%<br>-16.8%                  | 1.5%<br>1.7%                           | 2.9%<br>2.9%                           | 5.4%<br>5.1%                            |
| Growth Pool     | \$40.1        | -23.9%<br>-22.8%                  | 4.5%<br>2.5%                           | 5.3%<br>3.8%                           | 8.4%<br>7.2%                            |
| Income Pool     | \$10.2        | -13.8%<br>-15.4%                  | -2.5%<br>-3.1%                         | -0.1%<br>-0.3%                         | 1.1%<br>1.0%                            |

*Data from Wespath Institutional Investments closing September 30, 2022.*

## Markets: Long-Term View Continues to be Foundation's Focus

We're in a unique time economically as global volatility continues to abound in both equity and fixed income markets. The residual effect of economic measures taken during the pandemic have contributed to inflation at rates not seen for two generations. The Federal Reserve has responded by raising interest rates because the threat of inflation is greater than the threat of slower economic growth.

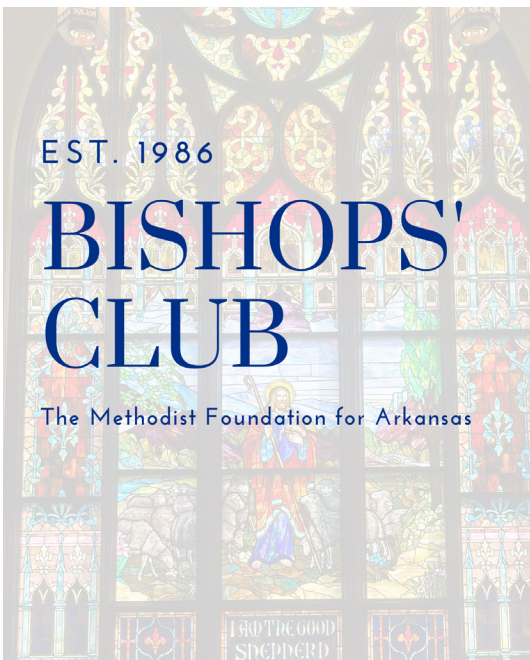
With all this in mind, we remain confident in our long-term strategic plan toward investing and remain patient, looking toward a return to normalcy.



## Foundation Welcomes Jill Penick to Board

We are excited to announce Jill Penick as the Foundation's newest Board of Directors member. Jill joins the Board from Little Rock, where she attends Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church with her husband, Edward, and their children.

Jill is active in her community as she serves as Vice-Chairman of the Pulaski Heights UMC Foundation Board and on their Board of Stewards. Please help us welcome Jill to the Foundation!



## Join Bishops' Club & Help Fund MFA Grants

The Bishops' Club is a group of over 100 couples and individuals who contribute to support The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. Their gifts are made in honor of the Bishops and their families who have served our state. Initially, the Bishops' Club supported the Foundation's daily operations, but we are blessed that we can now dedicate all of these funds toward our discretionary grant work.

The annual membership for the Bishops' Club is \$1,000, and this support will continue to allow the Foundation to fulfill its mission of strengthening and expanding Methodist ministry in Arkansas. In addition to the financial support, these friends are the greatest ambassadors for the Foundation.

Want to join the Bishops' Club and help support the Foundation's work? Visit our website for more information.

# Argue Award Honoree Named



Jim Argue, Jr.

James B. "Jim" Argue Jr. was a dedicated United Methodist and public servant. Before becoming the longest-serving president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas until his death May 3, 2018. Argue was a beloved member of National Association of United Methodist Foundations (NAUMF) for many years due in part to his tireless efforts to make the world a better place.

NAUMF honors Jim's life-long contributions by awarding a worthy nonprofit with a group donation made in his memory. This year's recipient, Magdalena House, shares Jim's heart for serving others and his appreciation for the power of education.

Magdalena House is a neighborhood of transitional homes in San Antonio that serves mothers and their children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives. Utilizing a dual-generation approach, the organization provides safe shelter, basic needs, educational programming, and therapeutic services. The mothers who seek safety, healing, and hope for a new beginning for themselves and their children. Magdalena House empowers these families to transform their lives. Mothers must participate in accredited education such as ESL, GED, or college. Families stay for several years until the mothers complete their educational goals. Families rediscover forgotten strengths and develop new skills to help them flourish. During their time at Magdalena House, families participate in counseling, parenting programs, life enrichment classes, financial planning, spiritual formation, and compassionate community living.



*Magdalena House is a transitional home in San that provides transformation through education, programming, and a nurturing community.*

# Tenth Annual Methodist Lawyers Conference Held in Little Rock

The Foundation hosted the 10th annual Arkansas United Methodist Lawyers Conference on September 15 at Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock. The legal education event is free to Arkansas Methodist attorneys and covers subjects relevant to their work representing churches and congregations.



*Communion served by Bishop Gary Mueller and Bill Waddell, Rev. Clark welcomes guests, Michelle Ator offers a closing prayer, Justice Howard Brill and Rev. Roy Beth Kelley,*

# Seminary Scholars Honored at 20th Anniversary Celebration

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Seminary Scholarship Fund, the Foundation hosted dinner for our scholars and donors on Friday, October 14 at Cypress Creek Social in North Little Rock.

In 2000, the Seminary Scholarship Fund was established to ensure strong pastoral leadership for the future. These scholarships enable our best and brightest students to answer God's call and become pastors in our communities. Repayment for the scholarship is not a loan to be paid back, but "retired" through service under appointment by our Bishop, 2 years for every one year of scholarship assistance. This "paying it forward" approach has provided the Arkansas Annual Conference with creative and dedicated leadership from our Scholars.

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has always been passionate about providing excellent leadership for local congregations. In its sixty-year history, the Foundation has devoted efforts and finances to assist both clergy and laity with training and educational experiences with one focus, providing congregations, leaders, and pastors with the best opportunities to learn and expand knowledge and skills, so that the Kingdom would grow in local communities throughout our Annual Conference.

To date, our 41 scholars have served a total of 359 years, in 108 appointments, in congregations, Wesley Foundations, The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, and in Military Chaplaincy. This Fall 2022 semester, Arkansas Methodism has 6 Elders and 4 Deacons in full-time degree programs at six different United Methodist seminaries. The annual award for each scholarship is \$22,000 per year for three years.



Left: Seminary Scholars Revs. Natasha Murray, Kathleen McMurray, Corey Tyson Read, and Dan Read.

Top: Jeff and Emily Stotts, Elise Argue, Sarah Argue and Matthew Anderson, Seminary Scholars Revs Heath and Jeannie Williams, James Hayes glass gifts, Seminary Scholar Rev. Kilbourne opens with a prayer, MFA Board President Sam Gibson and his wife, Pam Gibson, Gwen and Rev. Phil Hathcock.





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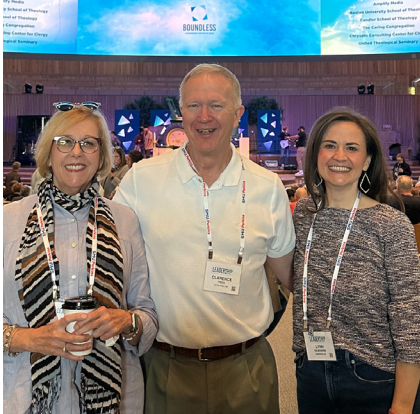
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## PHOTOS: The Foundation at Work



Top: The Foundation hosted Arkansas clergy and laity at The Leadership Institute of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. Pictured (left) are Foundation staff Cathy Hall, Clarence Trice, and Rev. Lynn Kilbourne. Right: Behind the scenes with our Foundation staff at our weekly Monday morning meeting. Pictured (Left clockwise) Kilbourne, Trice, Madden, Kristin Hartman, Anderson, Hall, Orea Meeks, Yokem, Haley Klein, and Clark.



Left: Foundation staff and guests celebrated Philander Smith College at their annual Presidential Scholarship Gala on September 30, 2022. Pictured clockwise from left: Rev. Wayne and Rynnett Clark, Rev. Phil Hathcock, Jacqueline Ivory, Foundation Board Director Pam Harris, Rev. U.C. Washington, Rev. Mackey Yokem, Jeff and Emily Madden.

