

LEGACIES

DECEMBER 2023

Methodist Foundation Friends, Staff Celebrate 60 Years

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas and over 200 of our closest friends celebrated 60 years of supporting Methodist ministries in Arkansas. Thank you to all who joined us including Bishop Laura Merrill, Philander Smith University choir, Count Porkula BBQ, Loblolly Ice Cream, and the band, FatSoul.



MORE PHOTOS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lilly Endowment Grants Foundation \$1.25M for Compelling Preaching Initiative

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has received a grant of \$1,249,972 from Lilly Endowment Inc., focusing on serving the local Methodist church by providing resources and support for leadership development.

The program is funded through Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative. The initiative aims to foster and support preaching that inspires, encourages, and guides people to come to know and love God and to live out their Christian faith more fully.

"Through the Compelling Preaching Initiative grant, The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas (MFA) seeks to build the capacity for bold, innovative preaching among Arkansas United



Methodist clergy," said Rev. J.J. Whitney, MFA's Compelling Preaching Initiative Project Director. "This generous gift from Lilly Endowment creates opportunities for peer learning and coaching, preaching pilgrimages and workshops with renowned leaders, and retreats that provide space for creativity and resilience building."

The MFA's Compelling Preaching Initiative grant is a statewide five-year program open to clergy members of the Arkansas United Methodist

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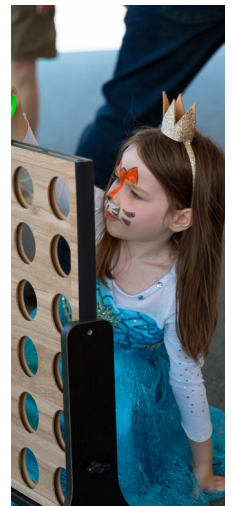
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The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas

60th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, September 23, 2023
Little Rock, AR



The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas'
Northwest Arkansas Events



Photos (top left clockwise): OMP's Karen Anderson and Jules Anderson, with Amy Anderson; Mary Lewis Dassinger presents at the NWA Grant Writing Workshop at Rogers First UMC; Boomerang Joy at Rogers First UMC; John Mack, Rev. Clark, MFA Board member Loria Oliver, and her husband, Kent Oliver; Amy and Richard Rogers with Horizon Stewardship; Mary Jane Silva of Farmington UMC; Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, Cary and Rev. Bud Reeves, and Bob Gullett; Beverly and Gary Darwin (seated), Missy Kincaid, and Rev. Clark celebrate at the Foundation's NWA Bishops' Club dinner.

Northwest Arkansas Events

NWA Rogers Office Celebrates Two Years Open

It's hard to believe that the NWA office has been open for over two years! The time has flown by, and so much has happened with this office. In addition to having a bigger presence in this part of the state for our current and future clients, we also wanted to get the word out about our thriving grant program to local non-profits whose mission aligns with one of the ten priorities of the Foundation's grant committee. Since opening the NWA office in 2021, the Foundation has awarded \$485,386 in grants to Methodist churches and other non-profits in the NWA and River Valley areas!

Another vision for this office was also realized in the past few months. The Foundation regularly hosts events in Little Rock for its Bishops' Club members and professional and leadership workshops to benefit clergy, laity, and non-profit leadership. We wanted to make these opportunities more readily available and accessible by hosting them in Northwest Arkansas.

We held a Grant Writing and Fundraising Workshop in August at Rogers First United Methodist Church. This day-and-a-half workshop first featured Mary Lewis Dassinger from Arkansas Conference's 200,000 More Reasons initiative. She discussed the grant writing process with participants from the eyes of someone who reviews and reads grant applications. On the second day, we were joined by Richard Rogers, Senior Vice President for Horizons Stewardship. He presented a look at the current financial landscape, giving trends, and how to apply that to fundraising skills. The participants enjoyed meals and snacks provided by Boomerang Joy, a group of Rogers FUMC women who cater events and use their profits to fund projects that respond to the needs of their community. We were thrilled with the initial workshop in Northwest Arkansas as we had 28 people attend, representing both churches and non-profits in the area.

In October, over 50 Bishops' Club members and

OUT
& ABOUT
WITH
AMY



Amy Anderson
Northwest Arkansas
Development Officer

friends gathered for dinner at Mermaids in Fayetteville to highlight our Bishops' Club and update current and future members by hearing from a couple of the non-profits that their membership supports through our grant program. Mary Jane Silva, a retired teacher and Farmington UMC member, has organized its Back to School Bonanza for 19 years. This event provides new shoes, a new backpack and school supplies, a box of food, a hot pizza to take home, and books to 500 school-aged children in the area. Additionally, the Bonanza provides haircuts, health physicals and immunizations, foot washing, and prayer. It is a one-stop shop to provide area children everything they need to be ready for the first day of school. Jules Anderson, Director of Programs and Communication for Ozark Mission Project, also visited with the group about the matching grant they received from the Foundation that launched its successful results for NWA Gives Day. They were able to raise the funds to receive the matching grant and received above and beyond that! Jules shared that this grant helped them to double the number of first-time donors from the previous year and triple their number of donors from the year before that. The funds raised on NWA Gives Day directly impacted the work that they are doing in Northwest Arkansas.

We are so excited about the turnouts and enthusiasm for these events that we look forward to offering more workshops and events in Northwest Arkansas. Our next workshop will be in late January and will focus on financial literacy for women. So, be on the lookout for information on that workshop and future events!

MFA Named Outstanding Foundation 2023 by AFP-Arkansas Chapter

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Arkansas Chapter awarded The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas with Outstanding Foundation at their 2023 AFP National Philanthropy Day awards luncheon. Honorees and Finalists gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock for a luncheon on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. AFP celebrated its 38th year of honoring philanthropists who have given their time, talent, and support to nonprofits in Arkansas.

The membership of the AFP Arkansas Chapter is 160+ strong – comprised of approximately 150 nonprofit organizations. The National Philanthropy Day luncheon also honored Little Rock City Director Kathy Webb with a lifetime achievement award and Susie and Charles Morgan as outstanding philanthropist.



AFP National Philanthropy Day Awards, 2023 (left to right:) Rev. Phil Hathcock, Rev. Mackey Yokem, Rev. Dr. C.E. McAdoo, Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, Jill Penick, Rev. Wayne Clark, Kristin Hartman, Emily Madden, Orea Meeks, Haley Tehan, Jenny Goodman, Clarence Trice, Sarah Argue, Rev. Brittany Watson, Steve Shults, Rev. Maxine Allen, Sam Gibson, and Rev. Nathan Kilbourne. (photo credit Matthew Sewell)

Lilly Endowment Grant CONTINUED

Conference.

“I am thrilled and honored that The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has been selected by the Lilly Foundation to receive one of the Compelling Preaching Initiative Grants,” said Rev. J. Wayne Clark, President and CEO of The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. “I appreciate the faith Lilly Endowment has put into the Foundation and look forward to the ways the Foundation can assist Arkansas clergy on their preaching skills that will make the churches stronger and equip even more disciples.”

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is one of 81 organizations receiving grants through this competitive round of the Compelling Preaching Initiative. Reflecting the diversity of Christianity in the United States, the organizations are affiliated with mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, Anabaptist, and Pentecostal faith communities. Many of the organizations are rooted in the Black Church and in Hispanic and Asian American Christian traditions.

AR Methodist Lawyers Conference 2023 debuts Professional Advisory Council



The Foundation hosted our annual Arkansas Methodist Lawyers Conference on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock. The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is proud to offer this event each year, knowing that it strengthens Methodist ministry in Arkansas by supporting attorneys who are so valuable in their local churches.

Every lawyer in Arkansas must take annual continuing legal education (CLE). The Methodist Foundation Lawyers Conference is grounded in Methodism and includes the annual required Ethics credit and additional CLE credits. Typically, the CLE credits alone would cost a lawyer over \$1,000! This year's conference offered attendees 6.5 credit hours of free CLE with the Arkansas Judiciary's Office of Professional Programs, including one hour of ethics.

At this year's Lawyers Conference, we launched the Foundation's Professional Advisory Council- a group of attorneys who have been recommended to us by their pastor or by someone with whom they have worked. This group will allow the Foundation to have a list of attorneys available whom we can recommend to help with estate planning and charitable giving needs.

Topics covered at this year's Arkansas Methodist Lawyers Conference included emotional support animals, Donor Advised Funds, and Arkansas's updated concealed carry laws.

The Foundation is very grateful to Bill Waddell, Legal Counsel for the Council of Bishops, and Elizabeth Bynum, Legislative Analyst for the Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research. They volunteer their time and coordinate the conference.

Photos (clockwise): Professional Advisory Council members recognized; attendees listen to presenters; Dr. Dan Heist presents; Cara Butler, Alan Gates, and Lucy.





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Women are expected to live five years longer than men,
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FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR **WOMEN**

Thursday, January 25, 2024 in Little Rock
or Saturday, January 27, 2024 in Rogers
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

register online for this free event
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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (2018). "THE GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT, 2018."