

LEGACIES

SPRING 2021

Everybody is talking In Conversation Together

The Foundation's monthly webinar aims to connect others through interesting speakers and topics.

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas began a new program in October 2020, "In Conversation Together." Each month the Foundation invites our friends to hear from well-known philanthropists, religious leaders, and popular motivational speakers as they share their work, stories, and visions.

The idea of the conversations came during the height of the COVID pandemic, where we found friends and family were isolated and lonely. The Foundation's Vice President of Development, Janet Marshall, developed "In Conversation Together" after seeing the opportunity to hear from some special people, learn new things, and have something to look forward to on a regular basis. "I present ideas for speakers, usually that have connections to Arkansas, to the Foundation staff, and we choose from the list of names offered. I then invite the selected person to participate. To encourage people to join the program, we send emails and promote the program on our website and Facebook page. Word-of-mouth also helps get people to join us," said Marshall. "I think In Conversation Together has been successful because our friends are staying at home and have been interested in the topics we have been able to offer them."

Since October, the conversations have featured Rev. Mary Jane Cole, speaking on isolation; Christy Moore with Heifer International; Rev. Mackey Yokem with a virtual tour of the Holy Land; author Missy Buchanan; author John Grisham; Master Gardener, Janet Carson; and former Arkansas Razorback and coach, Anthony Lucas.

See a list of our upcoming Conversations (*right*) and register to join us at methodistfoundationAR.org.

IN CONVERSATION TOGETHER

Upcoming Guests



Thursday, May 20, 2021
Bishop Gary Mueller
Episcopal Leader,
AR United Methodist Church



Thursday, June 17, 2021
Chelsea Clinton
Author & Vice Chair,
The Clinton Foundation



Thursday, July 15, 2021
Craig O'Neill
Media Personality &
Philanthropist



Thursday, August 19, 2021
Rev. Juanita Rasmus
St. John's UMC,
Houston, TX



Thursday, Sept 16, 2021
Mary Lewis Dassinger
200,000 More Reasons
AR Conference of the UMC

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A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

I'm blessed.

At one of the churches I served, Miss Mabelline often kept the nursery. This gentle soul with a prophetic voice was loved by children and adults alike. Occasionally she would babysit my children, but that will be a story for another time.

Mabelline was a retired woman who lived below the poverty- level, and by all measures, had many disadvantages. However, you would never know by her attitude and overall persona. Sometimes I would take Mabelline home or stop by her house with a little something to give her. The house was very minimal, with holes in the front porch and a few holes in the floor inside. She cared for her ill husband when she wasn't doing volunteer work for her church. Yet, despite all her adversities and lack of money, every time you asked Mabelline how she was doing, she would respond, "I'm blessed." In how most of the world measures 'blessings,' they might not think Mabelline was blessed. But she had family, health, friends, faith, a roof over her head, and food on her table. She reminded all who met her what true blessings mean.

Years later, I worked at Hendrix College, where I had a student who replied, "I'm tired" each time others inquired how he was doing. He lived a good life, went to college, had two parents, and friends. His "always being tired" reflected on his friendships, studies, soul, and attitude, which led him to have a few conversations with me. He couldn't see all his blessings through his 'tiredness.'

It's all how we look at life and our situation. I hope you feel blessed and your life brings blessings to others. I pray amid all the challenges in our world that each of us will continue to realize that God is in charge.

In this edition of Legacies, you will see how people have been a blessing to the Foundation. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know how we can help.

BLESSINGS,
Wayne

Praise for the Perkins 2021 Summit for Faith & Learning

Attendees traveled virtually, School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. With the theme "Looking Forward, Learning Together," the series for Faith & Learning, held online offered various courses taught by the Perkins faculty and alumni members. Thanks to grant funds,

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VISIT US

METHODISTFOUNDATIONAR.ORG



FOUNDATION NEWS

Janet Marshall
Vice President of Development

New Accounts

Since January, Hendrix College has opened a new account and 11 churches have opened 15 new accounts at the Foundation. Four new charitable gift annuities were also created. Contact us to learn about your local church's investment options or to receive a free personalized, confidential life-income analysis.

Planting Seeds

The Foundation hosted an Endowment Seminar on April 20 via Zoom. All pastors in the conference were invited, as well as members from their congregations. The half-day program included a presentation from attorney Laura Johnson on "The Enduring Gift of an Endowment." A group of clergy and laity shared how the income from their endowment invested at MFA benefits their local church. Another group provided advice on ways their church promotes their endowment fund to their congregation. The recorded seminar is available on our website.

Methodist Lawyers Conference

Thursday, September 23, 2021 will be this year's Methodist Lawyers Conference. Registration information will be emailed to past attendees and all pastors to share with attorneys in their congregation in late August. Current topics and speakers include Legal Aspects of Planned Giving – Jennifer Pierce; Real Estate Issues for Local Churches – Scott Schallhorn & Mandy Stanton; Pathways for Local Churches - Bill Waddell; 2021 Judicial Council Decisions – Michelle Ator; A Legal Guide to Service Dogs & Other Animals in the Church – George Rhoads; Tax/Non-Profit Update – Tony Hilliard. The CLE event is free and open for Methodist attorneys to receive up to 7 hours of continuing educational credit. The conference is scheduled to be held in-person at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Scholarship Spotlight

LaToya Shephard



We are excited to announce the Foundation's Scholarship Selection Committee has awarded a second year of scholarship assistance to LaToya Shephard. This scholarship is made possible through the Allen Asbury and Roberta Fuller Few Memorial Scholarship. LaToya will continue her seminary education at St. Paul School of Theology in Leawood, KS. LaToya currently serves full-time as the Associate Pastor of Outreach at Heritage United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas while pursuing a Master of Divinity at St. Paul. She is a certified candidate for ordained ministry on the Elder track. This scholarship award will play a role in enabling her to answer God's call by covering St. Paul's tuition and fees for the year.

Mission u 2021

Arkansas United Methodist Women

The Foundation is a proud sponsor of Mission u. Arkansas Conference Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on recent mission study topics. Mission u is open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women. Mission u offers classes on topics covering three themes: spiritual growth, social issue and geographic studies as well as studies for children and youth. At Mission u, participants grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church. Mission u events also include worship & singing, interest groups around current issues, presentations, and fellowship events.



Mission u will take place on July 28-31, 2021 on the campus of Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. For more information visit armissionu.weebly.com.



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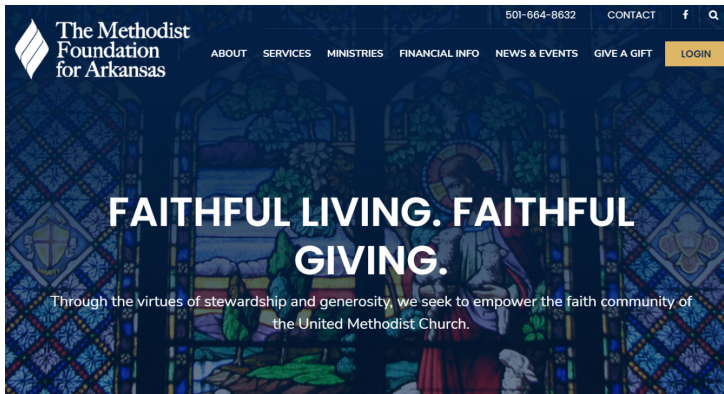
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Questions about anything you have read in *Legacies* or want to learn more about The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas?

Contact us at (501) 664-8632 or visit our website.

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the Foundation has sponsored attendees from the Arkansas Conference over the last several years. "This annual event allows people to experience a 'day at seminary' with a deep dive into theological, biblical, and thematic topics," explains Priscilla Pope-Levison, Associate Dean for External Programs. The Summit aims to enhance attendees' understanding of God, the Bible, and spirituality through a deeper concentration than that experienced during a sermon or Sunday morning class.

"I consider the yearly availability of classes at the Perkins Summit part of the continuing journey of discovering the truth and essence that God has provided to us through learning and study," said Kathy Ann Conley, the Lay Leader of the Arkansas Annual Conference. "Participating in a class with seminary professors is a wonderful way for the laity to become more discerning in their views, not to mention this is just another way for their understanding to develop so to bring more of the Word to their congregants."