

LEGACIES

AUGUST 2021

Foundation Partners to Fund Anti-Poverty, Economic Justice Work

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF) launched a new initiative, the Micah Fellows Program, in partnership with the Faith Matters Network and The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, to help Arkansas faith leaders champion economic justice and anti-poverty efforts in their communities.

"Governor Rockefeller's mission to bring equity to all Arkansans was fueled by his faith, including the charge 'to act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' from Micah 6:8," said Rev. Shantell Hinton Hill, WRF equity officer. "This scripture continues to inspire programs like Micah Fellows."

The Micah Fellows Program is a nine-month initiative focused on nurturing moral leadership around anti-poverty work in Arkansas. According to a 2019 study in Arkansas commissioned by Entergy Arkansas, United Way, and WRF, more than 40 percent of households in the state are currently considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) with incomes above the Federal Poverty Line but less than the essential cost of living. "Our state's faith leaders are on the frontlines of anti-poverty efforts," said Rev. Ryan D. Davis, associate pastor at Bullock Temple C.M.E. Church. "This fellowship program will tap into that shared knowledge to amplify and deepen the impact of our work."

The Micah Fellows Program is funded by a \$200,000 investment by The Winthrop

Rockefeller Foundation and an additional \$50,000 from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. Faith leaders and their communities will use a significant portion of these funds for anti-poverty and economic justice projects across the state.

"Through collaboration and study, fellows will explore theological frameworks to support their anti-poverty work," said Rev. Jen Bailey, founder and executive director of the Faith Matters Network. "This program will equip them with the necessary tools and resources to educate and organize others to help achieve economic equity in Arkansas."



The inaugural class of Micah Fellows will participate in media, advocacy, and narrative training from September 2021 to May 2022. During that time, they will also have access to micro-grants for regional economic inclusion and justice projects.

"We are thrilled to partner with The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation on the Micah Fellows Program," said Rev. J. Wayne Clark, President and CEO of The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. "Together, we hope to diminish and eventually eradicate the suffering that many Arkansas families currently face."

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Rev. J. Wayne Clark
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A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

Mabelline, the babysitter

In the last issue of *Legacies*, I wrote about Miss Mabelline. I mentioned she would babysit our children occasionally. The first time she did this, Rynnett and I returned home and walked in the house through the kitchen, which flowed into the living room. The house was all dark. The TV wasn't on. There wasn't

a sound in the house. Both of us grew a little concerned as we made our way to the hall where the bedrooms were located. We had not turned on any lights, but when we rounded the corner to the bedroom hall, we saw the shadow of Mabelline sitting between the girls' bedrooms. As we approached the hall, we whispered, "Miss Mabelline, are you okay?" She whispered back, "Oh yes sir. The children are fine." We didn't really know what to think about this. We said, "You are welcome to watch TV." She responded by saying, "oh no sir, you are not paying me to watch TV. You are paying me to watch your children." We would realize later when we left the children with her and she was back there 'watching over them' as they slept, she was also praying for them (and I suspect us as well). We hated leaving that church, especially our guardian angel, Miss Mabelline. We kept up with her for several years and saw her a few times. She eventually moved to California to live with one of her daughters who was kind enough to let us know when she died.

There are a lot of guardian angels out there. I hope you have had many in your lives. Maybe there are people out there who feel you have been a guardian angel to them. Through our faith, we know God is watching over us sitting in the dark as we sleep.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Legacies* and see ways guardian angels are working in our state, local churches, institutions, and The Foundation. Let us help you be that guardian angel to your local church.

BLESSINGS,
Wayne

Methodist Lawyers Conference Scheduled for September

Arkansas United Methodist Lawyers Conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021. The CLE event is free and open for Methodist attorneys to receive up to 6.25 hours of continuing educational credit. The conference will be held in-person at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. Registration information is available on the Foundation's website.

Current topics include legal aspects of planned giving, real estate issues, pathways for local churches, service animals, and a tax/non-profit update.

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Fall Cohort Begins September 29th

1:00pm CST- 2:30pm CST

5 Sessions: 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1

To Register Visit methodistfoundationAR.org
by September 22nd



Presented by:

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Foundation Bishops' Club to Fund Grants

The Bishops' Club is a group of over 100 United Methodists 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 our 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.

High Speed Internet Comes to Mount Eagle

The Foundation recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to upgrade and expand internet services at Mount Eagle Retreat Center in Clinton, AR. The Retreat Center will be matching the grant to cover the full cost of installation. Mount Eagle is located on 1,000 acres and hosts spiritual retreats, family getaways, mental and physical renewal trips, and everything in between. The Center offers miles of hiking trails, several fire pits, a volleyball court, river access, multiple places for personal and group worship, and amazing views of nature.

"Having high-speed internet in our facilities expands our programming potential far beyond what we can currently offer," said Katelyn Hiatt, Mount Eagle's Executive Director. "Better internet opens a world of new opportunities for us including offering pastors a place to work on sermons while taking time away to hosting large-scale retreats with engaging speakers on site. We desire to have a resource library for guests to utilize as they are seeking to hear God, and the internet will help with providing access to these. Better internet impacts everything from our meetings to playing music for a reception in our newly renovated Rosewood pavilion. These are just to name a few. We are thankful for The Methodist Foundation to see the value of what this means for the future of Mount Eagle."



Large spools of internet cable await install at The Mount Eagle Retreat Center in Clinton, AR.

49 Students Receive 2021 Dollars for Scholars Grants

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is proud to make \$49,000 in scholarship contributions to 49 students receiving 2021 Dollars for Scholars awards to begin or continue their education at United Methodist colleges, universities, and seminaries. For each recipient, the students' local churches gave \$1,000 and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation matched that contribution. The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas gave \$1,000, along with the student's selected college contributing \$1,000 for a significant \$4,000 scholarship award to each student. "The board of the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is pleased to award \$49,000 in grants to Arkansas students attending United Methodist colleges and universities during the 2021-2022 school year," said MFA President and CEO, Rev. J. Wayne Clark.

Student	Church	College
Mr. Benjamin L. Cogbill	Asbury United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Lincoln G. Pritchard	Asbury United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Joshua D. M. Dawson	Asbury United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Reinhardt University
Mr. Maxwell Dawson	Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Wyeth B. McKean	First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Lauren N. Seckington	First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Sydney R. Wagner	First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Adam P. Kerr	First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, AR	Oklahoma City University
Ms. Allison M. Epperson	First United Methodist Church, Bryant, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Tyler J. Odell	First United Methodist Church, Clinton, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Samuel M. Coker	First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR	Garrett-Evangelical Seminary
Ms. Regina Galaviz	First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Hannah Gordon	First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Lawson B. Points	First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Keaton Taylor	First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Katherine G. M. Delony	First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, TX	Southern Methodist University
Ms. Madison R. Connaway	First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Kathleen E. Jackson	First United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Rebekah L. Dodson	First United Methodist Church, Mountain Home, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Silas B. Myane	First United Methodist Church, Prairie Grove, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Alyssa M. Savage	First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Kyle A. Bounds	First United Methodist Church, Greenbrier, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Lacey N. Crosby	First United Methodist Church, Greenbrier, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. John M. Mathis	First United Methodist Church, Greenbrier, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Joshua A. Saine	Hoover Memorial United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Mr. Samuel E. Adkisson, IV	Lakeside United Methodist Church, Lake Village, AR	Millsaps College
Ms. Sydney A. Conway	Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, AR	Southern Methodist University
Mr. Luke S. Simpson	Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Lillian T. Williamson	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Birmingham-Southern College
Ms. Lauren L. Berry	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Reece C. Forrest	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Jessalyn E. Hoskyn	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Phoebe K. Sanders	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Sophie A. Sanders	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Robert P. Shannon, II	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Grace E. Pair	Sequoyah United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Joshua A. Cole	St. James United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Hendrix College
Mr. Evan J. Moore	St. James United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Oklahoma City University
Ms. Kelly J. Murray-Norman	St. James United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Laura M. Wilson	St. Paul United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Southern Methodist University
Ms. Annabelle N. Neilson	Village United Methodist Church, Hot Springs Village, AR	Hendrix College
Ms. Paulina C. Webber	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Dillard University
Mr. Xavier Chatman	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Mr. Joshua Goffney	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Ms. Valricka J. Mitchell	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Mr. Robert L. Nichols, III	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Ms. Myicara A. Spencer-Cole	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Mr. Jawan Wright	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College
Mr. Jo' Nathan L. Yow	Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR	Philander Smith College

Scholarship Spotlight

Methodist Foundation Deacon Seminary Scholarship

Cindy Miller has been selected as a Methodist Foundation Deacon Seminary Scholar for the 2021-2022 school year. Students demonstrating exceptional promise attending one of the 13 accredited United Methodist seminaries may be selected by The Foundation to receive annual scholarships. Scholarship recipients are required to sign a covenant agreement committing to serve as a deacon under appointment in Arkansas for two years for each year of scholarship support received.

"Hello, Family of God! My name is Cindy Miller, and I am a Methodist serving God in various ways, including teaching in public schools, playing and singing music, directing children's ministries, and now serving United Methodist Women at my church, Rogers First UMC in Rogers, AR. Now that my children are grown, I want to learn more, serve more, and help others draw closer to God and each other. This fall, I will begin my studies at St. Paul Theological Seminary to become a Deacon and expect to graduate in Spring 2023. Thank you to the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas for your support and encouragement. I will fervently strive to bring God's kingdom to all people!"



Cindy Miller



Sadie Stratton

Methodist Foundation Deacon Seminary Scholarship

Sadie Stratton was also selected as a Methodist Foundation Deacon Seminary Scholar for the 2021-2022 school year.

"I am a 'Cradle Methodist' and grew up in Milwaukee, WI, before moving to Bentonville, AR in 2011," said Sade. "I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006 with a BS in Special Education and was a teacher for eight years. I then served as Director of Family Ministries at FUMC Bentonville until May 2021, where I discerned a call to ordained ministry. I am pursuing a Masters of Divinity at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO, and I am a certified candidate for ordination in the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. I am passionate about affirming, inclusive, and comprehensive sex education workshops for young

people and their grown-ups. When I graduate, I want to expand my ministry of empowering tweens with sex education, affirming them as God's good creation."

Nancy M. Wood Scholarship

Marleigh Hayes from Fayetteville has been named the 2021 Nancy M. Wood Scholarship winner and will enroll this fall at Hendrix College with the \$6,000 scholarship grant. She feels called to study toward her goal of attending seminary and is a member of Sequoyah UMC in Fayetteville, AR,

Marleigh's application essay grappled with the UMC motto, "open hearts, open minds, open doors." As she studied Wesley's last letter and his disapproval of the condition of slavery, Marleigh believes she is "not a finished project, but I will not become complacent. I will continue to grow in my beliefs."

The Nancy M. Wood Scholarship was established in 2015 and is managed by the Foundation. The scholarship is awarded annually to an Arkansas United Methodist young woman who has demonstrated her commitment to her church and community. The goal is to encourage lifelong female lay service to the United Methodist Church. Applications for the 2022 Scholar are currently available on the Arkansas Conference's website.



Marleigh Hayes



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Foundation Grant Recipient: Ozark Mission Project



Ozark Mission Project was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Foundation to assist with their summer 2021 projects and student camper scholarships. Ozark Mission Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit mission of the Arkansas Area United Methodist Church, organized for ministry to persons in need in response to Jesus Christ's call to servanthood. We send church youth groups to campsites and churches around Arkansas where they, in turn, engage in the surrounding communities by serving individuals and families, our neighbors, who are in need of minor construction and yard work.