

# LEGACIES

SUMMER 2022

## MFA Bishops' Club Gathers in Little Rock for Annual Luncheon

*Lunch held first time since November 2019 with over 140 members in attendance*

There was a lot to celebrate at our 2022 Bishops' Club Luncheon! The theme of spring, planting seeds, and new life was palpable during our May 13th gathering at Highland Valley United Methodist Church in Little Rock. A record attendance crowd heard from featured speaker Ellis Arnold, President of Hendrix College, had the opportunity to visit with several grant recipients, and were introduced to over a dozen of our Seminary Scholarship recipients.

Rev. Wayne Clark and the Chair of the Board of Directors, Ginny Kurrus, offered remarks celebrating the ministries Bishops' Club members make possible as 100% of their gifts are directed to our grant ministry. Rev. Clark noted the Foundation's assets have increased, new accounts have flourished, and the number of new churches opening accounts keeps rising.

In his speech, Arnold spoke about the value of investing in our Methodist institutions. He shared his personal experience in the United Methodist Church as a youth, young adult, parent, and college president. Representatives from Arkansas Imagination Library, the Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health at Philander Smith College, Highland Valley UMC Infant Care Ministry, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Micah Fellows Program set up tables to share about their ministry and work and visited with Bishops' Club members on the impact of the grants they received in 2021.

*Photos: (top row left to right) Outgoing MFA Board Chair Ginny Kurrus, Rev. Wayne and Rynnett Clark, Kim and Ellis Arnold, Karen and Bishop Gary Mueller; Brenda and Bob Gullett; Sixteen of the forty-one MFA Seminary Scholarship Recipients, (first row)*



*Tanya Hancock, Annie Lankford, Reggie Russell, Cindy Miller, Jacob Lynn, Patti Butler, Robin Roark, Natasha Murray, Dane Womack. (second row) Andrea Cummings, Michelle Morris, Sara Andrews, Chase Burns, Lynn Kilbourne, Brittany Watson, Shane Pair; Dr. Joycelyn and Oliver Elders; Rev. Shane Pair, the first MFA Seminary Scholarship recipient and Mrs. Mardell McClurkin.*

MORE PHOTOS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Rev. J. Wayne Clark  
President & CEO

## A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

### A Degree of Kindness

I used to run a weekly lunch program at Hendrix College where I invited faculty and staff to talk about their vocation.

They would answer the question, "What is my vocation, and how do I know?" The program averaged 70 people who heard from well-known staff, the College President, the Dean of the College, Vice Presidents, and other well-loved and popular faculty. One week, I invited one of the cafeteria workers who had been there for decades. She had been there so long that she was my boss when I was a student at Hendrix and worked in the cafeteria washing dishes.

The cafeteria workers were like the home-away-from-home moms, dads, and grandparents. Within a few weeks of classes starting, they learned the names of the cafeteria 'regulars.' They would ask students about their tests, their families, and the stories that brought them to Hendrix.

When I asked my former boss if she would speak at the weekly program, she told me she didn't have anything to say. I assured her she did, "Talk about why you love working at Hendrix."

On the day of her program, she walked into a standing-room-only audience and significantly more people than the average attendance. She talked about her family and her love of stock car races (as a driver, not an observer). She mostly talked about her love of the students and how much joy they brought her life. When she finished, people wiped their eyes and gave her thunderous applause.

I always learned a lot from the talks, but on that day, I knew you don't have to hold a lot of degrees to make a difference in someone's life. How you treat people along the way and the unconditional love you show affects how people remember you.

Please let us know if the Foundation can help you make a difference in your church's life.

Blessings,  
Wayne

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas'

# The 34th Annual Bishops' Club Luncheon

Friday, May 13, 2022  
Highland Valley UMC, Little Rock, AR



Photos: (top row left to right) Dr. Roderick Smothers, Rev. Pam Estes, and Dr. Charles Donaldson; Paul and Carolyn Lasseigne with Emma and Rev. Earl Carter; Leyden and Jan Pugh, MFA Board member; table scape; The Honorable Buddy and Beverly Villines; Arnold; MFA staff Haley Walker Klein, Emily Madden, Kristin Hartman, Cathy Hall, Orea Meeks, and Rev. Lynn Kilbourne; MFA Grant recipient Highland Valley UMC's Infant Care Ministry's Mona Washington and Margie Northcutt; MFA Board Chairman Ginny Kurrus welcomes luncheon attendees.



Interested in joining the Bishops' Club?  
Contact Rev. Lynn Kilbourne at [LKilbourne@methodistfoundationAR.org](mailto:LKilbourne@methodistfoundationAR.org) or 501-664-8632.

# The 34th Annual Bishops' Club Luncheon



Photos: (top row left to right) Rev. Mackey Yokem and Rev. C.E. McAdoo; Luncheon attendees; Rev. Patti Butler representing the MFA grant partner program Micah Fellows; ARUMC District Superintendents Rev. Blake Bryant, Rev. UC. Washington, Rev. Edna Morgan, Rev. Ann Ferris, and Rev. John Fleming; Kilbourne, Garth Martin, and MFA's Amy Anderson; Incoming MFA Board Chairman Sam Gibson, Kurrus, and Clark; Kimberly and Clarence Trice; Dr. Donaldson, Bishop Gary Mueller, Dr. Elders, Clark, and Dr. Smothers.

# Dolly Parton's Arkansas Imagination Library

Every year at our Bishops' Club luncheon, we invite selected grant recipients to attend and share what their organization does and how the Foundation's grant has helped support their mission. One of the organizations this year was the Arkansas Imagination Library (ARIL). The grant they received from the Foundation directly supports children ages 0 – 5 in the River Valley area. I had the opportunity to visit with their Development Director, Sara Manning Drew, to learn a little bit about this amazing organization and how the grant has impacted them.

OUT  
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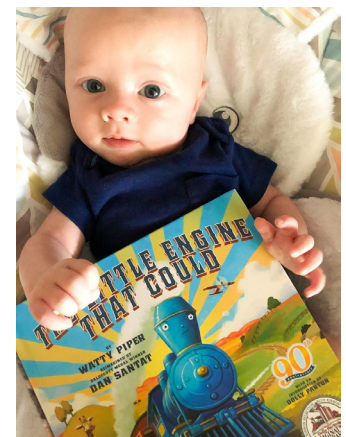
**Amy Anderson**  
Northwest Arkansas  
Development Officer

I have always heard about the Imagination Library and knew that Dolly Parton had something to do with it, but what exactly...I had no idea. In 1995, Dolly Parton launched the Imagination Library to benefit the children in her home state of Tennessee. Her vision was to foster a love of reading among preschool children by giving them a gift of a specially selected book each month. This vision grew from her local county to statewide and continues to grow around the country and even around the world!

Did you know that Arkansas was the third state to achieve statewide coverage, allowing them to service all children enrolled across the 75 counties? Created in 2017, ARIL began working with local affiliates to expand the program statewide. As a licensed partner of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, its mission is to increase literacy in Arkansas by ensuring all young children across the state have the opportunity to participate in this program.

The grant they received from the Foundation will sustain and grow enrollment numbers and provide 24,000 books to at least 2,000 children in Crawford, Logan, Franklin, Scott, Yell, and Pope Counties. Enrolled children ages 0 – 5 will receive one new, high-quality, age-appropriate book per month until their fifth birthday, at no cost to families. Books are mailed directly to each child, with their name on the label, which makes the book even more special to the child. By providing accessible, high-quality books, the ARIL program will increase childhood literacy rates, foster a love of books, and promote a culture of reading among underserved families. "Funding from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas will make a measurable difference in the lives of children in the River Valley region of Arkansas," Drew stated. "We are so thrilled to be a part of the generosity of the Foundation through its grant to the ARIL."

Every child in Arkansas is eligible to enroll in the Imagination Library from birth to age five. I was so excited to learn this that I immediately went to their website and signed my one-month-old niece up to receive a monthly book for the next five years! She will get 60 books through this program as a gift from the Arkansas Imagination Library. If you know of any eligible children, I encourage you to check out [arkansasimaginationlibrary.org](http://arkansasimaginationlibrary.org) and get them signed up. It is such an easy process, and what better gift to give than instilling a love of reading at such an early age.



Photos: (left to right) ARIL as a grant recipient at Bishops' Club 2022; Parton; baby with ARIL book

# Fifty-two Students Receive 2022 Dollars for Scholars Grants

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is proud to make \$52,000 in scholarship contributions to 52 students receiving 2022 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 these grants to Arkansas students attending United Methodist colleges and universities during the 2022-2023 school year," said MFA President and CEO, Rev. J. Wayne Clark.

## **Scholar**

Mr. Benjamin L. Cogbill  
Mr. Lincoln G. Pritchard  
Ms. Amber K. Alsup  
Mr. Maxwell Dawson  
Ms. Lydia A. Le  
Mr. Colin Phillips  
Ms. Elizabeth K. Emis  
Mr. Adam P. Kerr  
Mr. Wyeth B. McKean  
Ms. Lauren N. Seckington  
Mr. Landon C. Stewart  
Ms. Sydney R. Wagner  
Ms. Allison M. Epperson  
Ms. Madison R. Connaway  
Mr. Samuel M. Coker  
Ms. Karla R. Delgadillo Galaviz  
Ms. Hannah Gordon  
Mr. Joseph S. Winningham  
Mr. Keaton S. Taylor  
Mr. Lawson B. Points  
Ms. Sydney A. Conway  
Mr. John M. Mathis  
Mr. Kyle A. Bounds  
Mr. William H. Griffin  
Mr. Samuel E. Adkisson, IV  
Mr. Luke S. Simpson  
Ms. Gracie L. Singleton  
Mr. Jacob Collier-Tenison  
Mr. Samuel A. Collier-Tenison  
Mr. Jack H. Forrest

## **Institution**

Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Garrett-Evangelical  
Oklahoma City U  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Garrett-Evangelical  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Southern Methodist U  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Hendrix College  
Millsaps College  
Hendrix College  
Millsaps College  
Hendrix College  
Southern Methodist U

## **Church**

Asbury UMC, Little Rock, AR  
Asbury UMC, Little Rock, AR  
Cabot UMC, Cabot, AR  
Central UMC, Fayetteville, AR  
Central UMC, Rogers, AR  
First UMC, Arkadelphia, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bentonville, AR  
First UMC, Bryant, AR  
First UMC, Hot Springs, AR  
First UMC, Conway, AR  
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First UMC, Conway, AR  
First UMC, Conway, AR  
First UMC, Greenbrier, AR  
First UMC, Greenbrier, AR  
First UMC, Russellville, AR  
Lakeside UMC, Lake Village, AR  
Mt. Carmel UMC, Jonesboro, AR  
Portland UMC, Portland, AR  
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR

## Scholar

Mr. Reece C. Forrest  
 Ms. Phoebe K. Sanders  
 Ms. Sophie A. Sanders  
 Mr. Robert P. Shannon, II  
 Ms. Lillian T. Williamson  
 Ms. Lauren E. Elliott  
 Mr. John P. Lyon  
 Ms. Piper J. Nichols  
 Ms. Ruby K. Nichols  
 Ms. Emma K. Piercy  
 Ms. Laura M. Wilson  
 Ms. Annie M. J. Meek  
 Ms. Annabelle N. Neilson  
 Mr. Xavier Chatman  
 Ms. Jirah J. Cox  
 Mr. Miles E. Flood  
 Mr. Joshua Goffney  
 Ms. Myicara A. Spencer-Cole  
 Ms. Keyeria Tyeskie  
 Ms. Keshira J. Watson  
 Ms. Paulina C. Webber  
 Mr. Jo' Nathan L. Yow

## Institution

Hendrix College  
 American U  
 Hendrix College  
 Hendrix College  
 Birmingham-Southern  
 Hendrix College  
 Hendrix College  
 Oklahoma City U  
 Oklahoma City U  
 Hendrix College  
 Southern Methodist U  
 Perkins School of Theology  
 Hendrix College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Philander Smith College  
 Dillard University  
 Philander Smith College

## Church

Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. James UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. James UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. James UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. James UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. James UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 St. Paul UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Trinity UMC Little Rock, AR  
 Village UMC, Hot Springs Village, AR  
 Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, AR  
 Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, AR  
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 Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, AR

## Markets Continue Downward Trend

Investment Pool	\$ (millions)	1 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 3 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 5 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 10 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>
Blended Pool	\$126.0	-17.6% -12.7%	3.4% 3.6%	5.0% 4.6%	6.5% 6.4%
Growth Pool	\$42.6	-20.4% -17.8%	6.2% 5.0%	7.6% 6.3%	9.7% 8.7%
Income Pool	\$10.9	-10.2% -11.2%	-0.7% -0.9%	1.0% 0.8%	1.8% 1.6%

*Investment Performance as of June 30, 2022 from Wespath Institutional Investments.*

In a challenging year for investors, second quarter performance continued 2022's downward trend. Rising inflation and fears of a recession combined to create conditions resulting in significant negative returns.

We remain positive about long-term prospects for investments and realize that there will be periods with unfavorable results. Through Wespath Institutional Investments we will continue to invest in quality companies, presently at discounted prices. At June 30, 2022, the Foundation's assets under management exceeded \$196 million.



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## Join Us in Congratulating our 2022 MFA Seminary Scholars



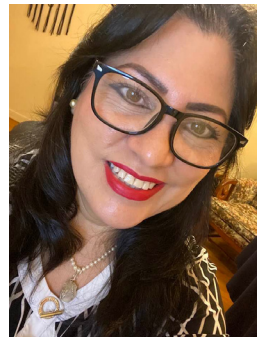
**Emily Autry**

Iliff School of Theology/  
University of Denver  
Denver, CO



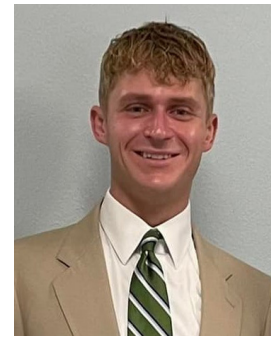
**Joshua Bland**

St. Paul School of Theology  
Leawood, KS



**Lupita  
Chavarria- Garcia**

Wesley Theological  
Seminary Washington, D.C.



**Emerson Cobb**

Duke Divinity School  
Durham, NC

For the past 20 years, the Foundation has provided scholarships for students who have answered a call to ordained ministry and demonstrate exceptional promise. The scholarship allows them to attend one of the 13 accredited United Methodist seminaries without the added stress of debt. Recipients are required to sign a covenant agreement committing to serve under appointment in Arkansas for two years for each year of scholarship support received.