Reach the World
Discovering Unexpected Joy in Giving

WORSHIP SERVICES
MONDAY, JUNE 8 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
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Opening Worship

WE GATHER TO PRAISE

PRELUDE
Great Is Our God
Craig Courtney

INVITATION TO WORSHIP
Shelby Street, President of the Youth Delegation

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God, the great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker;
for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
(Psalm 95:1-7 NIV)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Alvin Goodwin

Let us give thanks to the Lord,
our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.
Let us remember his mercy, for he is gracious and compassionate.

We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ,
for putting your spirit within us,
for giving us the mind of Christ,
for gathering us into your church.

We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us,
for calling us to a life of gratitude,
for calling us to service in your kingdom.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty,
he fills the hungry with good things and he heals the afflicted.
Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty, he fills the hungry with good things
and he heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate God’s abundant goodness.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME
Rev. Becki Curry
Louisville District Superintendent and Assistant to the Bishop
INVOCATION

LET US PRAY:
Gracious and loving God, we rejoice this day for this is the day you have made. We rejoice because this is the day we have longed for – the day when we gather as one church, united in mission and purpose. We rejoice because we have already seen brothers and sisters in Christ. We rejoice because of the embraces we have already shared. We rejoice for the time we will enjoy that is still before us; but, more than anything, we rejoice because here, in this place, you are present! We rejoice because we know that this convention center has been transformed into a place of your dwelling. We rejoice because here, in your presence, we can experience all that you would have for us! We pray, O God, that you would tune our hearts to sing your praise - that every aspect of this week and of this conference would be holy and pleasing in your sight. Come and have your way - Creator, Redeemer, Provider and Sustainer - for it is in your name that we pray and it is you whom we praise! Amen.

HYMN OF ADORATION  
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Rev. Harry Spurrier
Retired

Scripture  
Matthew 28:16-20  
Lew Nicholls
Kentucky Conference Lay Leader

Special Music  
Great and Awesome God  
Bowling Green District Choir
arr. Mark Hayes

Message  
“A Healthy Church”  
Bishop Lindsey Davis

Song of Reflection  
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

SETTING THE TABLE
Bishop Al Gwinn
Retired

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.  
Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.  
Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
(Psalm 103)

CONFESSION
Bishop Gwinn

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Let us pray:  
O Triune God, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.  
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.  
Most merciful God, whose son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us.  
Forgive us we pray and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
(All pray in silence.)
You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood - God’s very own children, who have been set apart as holy in order that you may proclaim his mighty acts to all the world. He has called you out of darkness and into his light. You were alone at one time, but not now. Now you are God’s beloved. Receive his gracious gift of mercy and bless the Lord from the depths of your soul.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us now respond to God’s grace by passing his peace.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, gracious God, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light even before the beginning. Generous God, overflowing fountain of good, you have honored us with the breath of your very life and made us in your image and likeness. You have created us to be a people of blessing – a people of celebration who dwell in the goodness and joy of being your children.

Even when our love fails, you continue to offer us your love and a place at your table. For this, and for so much more, we join with the throngs of angels who offer unceasing praise, and with the rest of creation as it gives glory to its creator. We lift up our voices in joyful response:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your son Jesus Christ, who, because of love, stepped out of glory and dwelt among us. He willingly came, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and invited us to return home. The Savior showed us how to live, by offering us good news. He healed the sick, cared for the least and took time for the little ones. He forgave sins, performed miracles, loved the unlovable and served everyone. He then gave up his very life, dying an excruciating, disgraceful death; yet, you raised him from the tomb and he triumphed over death so that we, too, might live.

Before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus met with friends and shared a meal. He took the bread, gave thanks to the Father, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.” He instructed them to do this in order to remember what he had done so that they might be made whole.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, the cup that symbolized an old covenant made with the blood of a lamb. He said, “This cup is the blood of a new covenant; it is my blood shed for the forgiveness of your sins. When you drink from this cup, remember me and remember that you are forgiven and free.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be, for us, the body and blood of Christ, that we may be, for the world, the body of Christ, redeemed and set free in his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry for the transformation of the world, until that great day when Christ returns in final victory and we feast in your glory at the great banqueting table. Through your son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Provider and our Sustainer – now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER
And now, with the confidence that comes from being forgiven and free, members of the family, and a holy and set apart people, let us pray as Jesus taught us long ago, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP  Bishop Gwinn
The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the passion of Christ.
Therefore, we who are many share from his gift given for all. Let us come to his table and find strength, hope and life.

COMMUNION MUSIC  Bowling Green Worship Team
Remembrance
Take My Life

SENDING FORTH  Bishop Davis
Gracious God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have shared your very self that we may know life to its fullest. Fill us all now with your Holy Spirit so that, during this time of holy conferencing, we would find ourselves continually drawn to praise, thanksgiving and renewal. Let us see your hand as we share and meet during the coming days, and may we be your blessing to the city of Bowling Green in all we do. We thank you for your presence with us and we eagerly anticipate what you will do with all of us gathered here. It is in your name that we lift this prayer. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE  Bowling Green District Choir
Going Forth

Worship Leaders: Lee Young and Jeremy Vincent
Bowling Green Worship Team: Jeremy Vincent, Louis Tagliaboschi, Josh Wicker, Martha Christian
Organist: Julie Pride
Brass Band: Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green District Choir
The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We come together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence, and direction of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray...

Eternal God, by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you gave to your apostles many excellent gifts.
Give your grace to all who have been called to servant ministry,
that they may with diligence and faithfulness fulfill their various ministries.
Grant that we your people may follow where you lead, perfect our ministries and live in joyful obedience to your will. Amen.

ECUMENICAL GREETINGS

The Reverend Father Jerry Riney
St. Stephen Cathedral
Owensboro, Kentucky

RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON MINISTRY

Bishop Davis
Ministry is the work of God, done by the people of God.
Young and old, male and female, Christians of every race and nation are made part of the priesthood of all believers at their baptism. Let us celebrate the shared ministry of laity and clergy, the body of Christ, striving through love and service for the redemption of the human family and the whole of creation.

Therefore, in celebration of our common ministry, I call upon all God’s people gathered here:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

All: We remember our baptism and affirm our common ministry.
PRESENTATION

Lew Nicholls – Conference Lay Leader
On behalf of the laity of local congregations who have examined and approved these candidates,

Reverend Gary Gibson – Chairman of the Board of Ordained Ministry
And on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry of this annual conference, which has recommended these persons, and this annual conference, which has approved them, we present these persons who will be commissioned, recognized or ordained:

Those Persons to be Commissioned to Perform the Duties of the Ministry of Elder:
Kevin Lee Johnson
Trent Matthew Lloyd
Kenneth Wayne McGehee
Charles Victor Shroll
Rachel Peters Wallace

Those Persons to be Commissioned to Perform the Duties of the Ministry of the Deacon:
Sara Elaine Rosales

The Person to be Credentialed as an Associate Member of the Annual Conference:
James Lee Fant

Those Persons to be Ordained Deacons:
Christy Linger Allen
Dawn A. Beamish

Those Persons to be Ordained Elders:
Brent Allen Arn
John Young Choi
David Lee Johnston
Beverly Kay Maguffee
Kevin M. Stamps

Bishop Davis
These persons are, by God’s grace, to be commissioned, recognized or ordained to ministry. Those authorized by the Church to inquire about them have discerned that they are persons of sound learning and of Christian character, and that they possess the necessary signs of God’s grace and have demonstrated a profound commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe them to be duly called to serve God.

We ask you, people of God, to declare your assent to the commissioning, recognition and ordination of these persons.

Do you trust that they are worthy, by God’s grace, to be commissioned, recognized and ordained?

Congregation
We do! Thanks be to God!
Bishop Davis
Will you uphold them in their ministry?

Congregation
With God's help, we will!

OFFERING AND PRAYER  Rev. Gary Gibson
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry

Offering proceeds will be given to Isaiah Project scholarships

OFFERTORY MUSIC  Lindsey Wilson Singers & the United Methodist Youth Chorale

*DOXOLOGY  Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow  OLD 100TH

PROCLAMATION

INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER  Bishop Lindsey Davis

ANTHEM  Lindsey Wilson Singers & the United Methodist Youth Chorale

SCRIPTURE LESSON  Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46  Rev. Tina Patterson
KSU Wesley Foundation

SERMON  Are We There Yet?  Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
Resident Bishop
West Virginia Annual Conference

*APOSTLE’S CREED  Rev. Father Jerry Riney

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come again to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI  MEINEKE
Commissioning, recognition and ordination are gifts from God to the church and are exercised in covenant with the whole church and within the covenant of the office and order.

My sisters and brothers, you have been called to commissioned, recognized or ordained ministry. The church now confirms your calling.

As commissioned, recognized, or ordained ministers, you are to be coworkers with the bishops, commissioned ministers, deacons, diaconal ministers, elders, and all of the faithful.

Remember that you are called to serve rather than to be served, to proclaim the faith of the church and no other, to look after the concerns of God above all.

So that we may know that you believe yourselves to be called by God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a commissioned, recognized or ordained minister?

Candidates

I do so believe.

Bishop Davis

Do you believe in the triune God and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates

I do so believe and confess.

Bishop Davis

Are you persuaded that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and are the unique and authoritative standard for the church’s faith and life?

Candidates

I am so persuaded, by God’s grace.

Bishop Davis

Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

Candidates

I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Davis

Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates

I will, with the help of God.
Bishop Davis
Will you, in the exercise of your ministry, lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ, to participate in the life and work of the community, and to seek peace, justice and freedom for all people?

Candidates
_I will, with the help of God._

Bishop Davis
Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting its order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God’s holy word, committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

Candidates
_I will, with the help of God._

Bishop Davis
May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them, that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection. _Amen._

HYMN
_God of Grace and God of Glory_  
CWM RHONDA

EXAMINATION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Bishop Davis
Throughout Christian history, the church has commissioned people for leadership and service. This commissioning is always a response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who calls and sends women and men to share in Christ’s ministry.

In the early church in Antioch, the Holy Spirit instructed the community to “set apart…Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2).

In the early stages of such ministerial service, ordained leaders walk with commissioned leaders to mentor and form them in Christ’s ministry, just as Ananias, the more seasoned leader, guided Paul, the newly-called evangelist, toward the fullness of his calling (Acts 9).

We gather here to commission men and women for ministry in the church. We will also recognize persons who have been elected as associate members of this annual conference.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a solemn hour in your life and the life of the church. You have shared in the ministry of all the baptized and you have witnessed that Christ calls you into ordained ministry.

Serving among us as faithful disciples, we have seen in you gifts and graces for leading the people of God in service.

Will you give yourself fully to the work of God in the world and to servant leadership in the life and work of Christ’s church?

Candidates
_Following Christ, I will._
Bishop Davis
Will you join with other provisional members for mutual support in the practice of leadership among the people of God?

Candidates
_With God's help, I will._

Bishop Davis
God of the apostles and prophets, of the martyrs and teachers, you raise up men and women to be apostolic leaders in your church.

By your Holy Spirit, help these, your servants, to understand and live the mystery of your love with boldness and joy. Deepen their sense of purpose as they exercise commissioned ministry.

Empower them, and those who will walk with them, to guide their ministry together with all of your people, to heal the sick, love the outcast, resist evil, preach the Word and give themselves freely for your name's sake. Amen.

EXAMINATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Bishop Davis
Will you, for the sake of the church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members? Will you give yourself to God through the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service?

Candidate
_I will, with the help of God, and with the help of my sisters and brothers in the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members._

Bishop Davis
After fulfillment of all of the requirements, and after due examination of your call and ministry, we now welcome you as an associate member of this annual conference.

You have given assurance of your faith and Christian experience. You have committed yourself to uphold faithfully The United Methodist Church and to the work of a pastor under appointment of the bishop.

We rejoice that you have been called to serve among us, and pray that God may guide your ministry.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for this one who is recognized for associate membership.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, that in your great love you sent Jesus Christ, to take the form of a servant, becoming obedient even unto death on the cross, and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens. And that you have taught us, by his word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give to this servant the grace and power to serve you in ministry. Clothe him with your righteousness so that your people may be strengthened and your name glorified in the entire world. Amen.
EXAMINATION OF DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION

Rev. Kevin Burney – Director of Ministerial Services
A deacon is called to share in Christ’s ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the community to its service in the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship, to nurture disciples for witness and service, to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God’s Word, to assist elders at Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to nurture disciples for witness and service, to interpret to the church the world’s hurts and hopes, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick and the oppressed, and to lead Christ’s people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation, even in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice.

Bishop Davis
These are the duties of a deacon in full connection.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

Candidate
I do so believe.

Bishop Davis
Will you, for the sake of the church’s life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of deacons? Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Deacons in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service?

Candidate
I will, with the help of God, and the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Deacons.

Bishop Davis
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for these persons to be ordained as deacons in full connection.

We give thanks to you, Living God, that in your great love you sent Jesus Christ to take the form of a servant, becoming obedient even unto death on the cross, and now resurrected and exalted in the heavens. You have taught us, by his word and example, that whoever would be great among us must be servant of all.

Give these servants grace to be faithful to their promises, constant in their discipleship and always ready for works of loving service. Make them modest and humble, gentle and strong, rooted and grounded in love. Give them a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Amen.

EXAMINATION OF ELDERS IN FULL CONNECTION

Rev. Kevin Burney – Director of Ministerial Services
An Elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: to preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision; order the life of the congregation;
counsel the troubled;
and declare the forgiveness of sin;
to lead the people of God in obedience to mission in the world;
to seek justice, peace and freedom for all people; and to take a
responsible place in the government of the church and in service in
and to the community.

Bishop Davis
These are the duties of an elder.

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

Candidates
I do so believe.

Bishop Davis
Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the Order of Elders?

Will you give yourself to God through the Order of Elders in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service?

Candidates
I will, with the help of God,
and the help of my sisters and brothers in the Order of Elders.

Bishop Davis
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us pray for these persons to be ordained elders.

We praise you, Eternal God, because you have called us to be a priestly people, offering to you acceptable worship through Jesus Christ, Apostle and High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. We thank you that, by dying, Christ has overcome death and, having ascended into heaven, has poured forth gifts abundantly on your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up Christ’s body and to fulfill your gracious purpose in the world.

Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry. Make them faithful pastors, patient teachers and wise counselors. Enable them to serve without reproach, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, to administer the sacraments of the new covenant and to offer, with all your people, spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (vss. 1, 2 & 5)

ODE TO JOY

THE COMMISSIONING OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

(Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands.)

Kevin Lee Johnson
Trent Matthew Lloyd
Kenneth Wayne McGehee
Charles Victor Shroll
Rachel Peters Wallace
Sara Elaine Rosales
Bishop Davis

Name, I commission you
to be a faithful servant leader among the people,
to lead the church in service,
to proclaim the Word of God,
and to equip others for ministry,

Almighty God,
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Name.
Send him/her now to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
to announce the reign of God,
and to equip the church for ministry,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer
during the recognition of associate membership.)

James Lee Fant

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION

(Family members and friends are invited to stand where they are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands.)

Christy Linger Allen
Dawn A. Beamish
Bishop Davis

Almighty God, pour upon Name the Holy Spirit
for the office and work of a deacon in Christ’s holy church. Amen.

Name, take authority as a deacon
to proclaim the Word of God,
and to lead God’s people in ministries of compassion and justice;
in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR ELDERs

(Family members and friends may be invited to stand where they are for silent prayer
during the laying on of hands.)

    Brent Allen Arn
    John Young Choi
    David Lee Johnston
    Beverly Kay Maguffee
    Kevin M. Stamps

Bishop Davis

Almighty God, pour upon Name the Holy Spirit,
for the office and work of an elder in Christ’s holy church. Amen.

Name, take authority as an elder
to preach the Word of God,
to administer the Holy Sacraments
and to order the life of the church,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Here I Am, Lord (vs. 1 & 2)

SENDING FORTH

*PRAYER

Bishop: Let us stand and pray together in one voice:

People: We thank you, Gracious God,
for raising up among us faithful servants.
May the grace of ministry rest upon these your servants
and may the opportunity to serve
lead them into the fullness of your calling.
Clothe them with your righteousness,
and grant that they may glorify you
by giving themselves to others,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.  
Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: We are sent in Christ’s name.  
Thanks be to God!

*RECESSIONAL HYMN  The Church’s One Foundation  AURELIA

*POSTLUDE

*GOING FORTH

*Congregation may stand as they are able.

Our Co-Liturgists this evening are The Rev. David Grout, pastor of Christ Church (Bowling Green) and The Rev. Rebecca Heid, pastor of Harned/Horsley Chapel. Our ecumenical greetings were brought by The Rev. Father Jerry Riney, St. Stephen Cathedral (Owensboro).

The Organist is Julie Pride. She serves at State Street UMC (Bowling Green). The Pianist is Lee Young. He serves at State Street UMC (Bowling Green). The Lindsey Wilson College Singers and United Methodist Youth Chorale is under the direction of Dr. Gerald Chafin, Associate Professor of Music The Lindsey Wilson Orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Wansoo Cho, Instructor of Music.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball is the resident bishop of the West Virginia Episcopal Area.

We are honored to have Bishop Al Gwinn Jr. participating in today’s ordination service. Bishop Gwinn served in various ways in the Kentucky Conference prior to his election to the episcopacy in 2004. He was appointed bishop of the North Carolina Conference/Raleigh Area, where he served for eight years.

Some songs used in this service are from The United Methodist Hymnal—© 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee  
CCLI #292350
ORDINATION AS DEACON

Christy Linger Allen
Spouse: Dean Allen
Children: Daniel Dixon, Devin Allen, Benton Allen
Hometown: Bowling Green, Kentucky
Degree(s): B.S. – Business Administration/Accounting, University of Central Florida
M.A. – Christian Ministry, Asbury Theological Seminary
Serving: Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dawn A. Beamish
Spouse: Rick Miller
Children: Eric Miller
Hometown: Parma, Ohio
Degree(s): B.S. – Vocational Home Economics Education, University of Akron
M.A. – Science Education, Ohio State University
M.Div. – Asbury Theological Seminary
Serving: Embrace United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky

ORDINATION AS ELDER

Brent Allen Arn
Spouse: Laura Arn
Hometown: Winchester, Ohio
Degree(s): B.S. – Business Administration, Shawnee State University
M.Div. – Asbury Theological Seminary
Serving: Bowman Memorial/Lothair United Methodist Churches in Hazard, Kentucky

John Young Choi
Spouse: Monica Choi
Hometown: Poughkeepsie, New York
Degree(s): B.S. – Management, Nyack College
M.Div. – Asbury Theological Seminary
Serving: St. John United Methodist Church in Prospect, Kentucky

David Lee Johnston
Spouse: Rachael Porter
Hometown: Charleston, West Virginia
Degree(s): B.A. – Religious Studies, Louisiana State University
M.Div. – Duke Divinity School
Serving: Northern Kentucky University Wesley Foundation in Highland Heights, Kentucky
**Beverly Kay Maguffee**
Spouse:  Rev. Dr. Gary Maguffee  
Children:  Tara Mitchell (James), Aaron Hourigan (Amy)  
Hometown:  Mt. Washington, Kentucky  
Degree(s):  B.A. – Kentucky Wesleyan University  
M.Div. – Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Serving:  Davidson Memorial United Methodist Church in Shepherdsville, Kentucky

**Kevin M. Stamps**
Spouse:  Beth Stamps  
Children:  Emily Rose Stamps, Noah Michael Stamps, Matthew Wesley Stamps, Liz Marie Stamps  
Hometown:  Franklin, Kentucky  
Degree(s):  B.A. – Religion, Philosophy, Kentucky Wesleyan College  
M.Div. – Asbury Theological Seminary  
Serving:  The High Ground in Fort Knox/Radcliff, Kentucky

**RECOGNITION AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

**James Lee Fant**
Spouse:  Janet Fant  
Children:  Craig Fant, Ben Fant  
Hometown:  Foster, Kentucky  
Degree(s):  B.A. – Asbury University  
M.Div. – Luther Rice Seminary  
M.Ed. – Columbus State University  
Ed. Specialist – University of Southern Mississippi  
Serving:  Immanuel United Methodist Church in Lakeside Park, Kentucky

**COMMISSIONING ON THE ELDER TRACK**

**Kevin Lee Johnson**
Spouse:  Jennifer Allgeier Johnson  
Children:  Braden Joseph Johnson, JonMarie Rose Johnson, William Bernard Johnson  
Hometown:  Louisville, Kentucky  
Degree(s):  B.S. – Georgetown College  
M.S. – Eastern Kentucky University  
M.Div. – Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Serving:  Crestwood United Methodist Church in Crestwood, Kentucky
Trent Matthew Lloyd
Spouse: Katherine Lloyd
Hometown: Huntington, Indiana
Degree(s): B.A. – Huntington University
           M.Div. – Candler School of Theology
Will Be Serving: Mt. Holly/Overdale United Methodist Churches in
                Louisville, Kentucky

Kenneth Wayne McGehee
Spouse: Betty McGehee
Children: Rebecca McGehee, Victoria McGehee, Troy McGehee,
          Destiny McGehee
Hometown: Greenville, Kentucky
Degree(s): A.S. – Electrical Engineering Technology, ITT Technical Institute
           B.A. – Organizational Leadership, Reinhardt College
           M.Div. – Candler School of Theology
Will Be Serving: Morganfield United Methodist Church in Morganfield, Kentucky

Charles Victor Shroll
Hometown: Somerset, Kentucky
Degree(s): B.A. – English, Morehead State University
           M.A. – Morehead State University
Serving: Campton United Methodist Church in Campton, Kentucky

Rachel Peters Wallace
Spouse: Matthew Wallace
Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky
Degree(s): B.A. – Psychology, University of Kentucky
           M.Div. – Duke Divinity School
Will Be Serving: Florence United Methodist Church, Associate in Florence, KY

COMMISSIONING ON THE DEACON TRACK

Sara Elaine Rosales
Spouse: Reynier Rosales
Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky
Degree(s): B.A. – Spanish, Asbury University
           M.Div. – United Theological Seminary
Serving: Fuente de Avivamiento United Methodist Church in
         Lexington, Kentucky
The Kentucky Annual Conference United Methodist Church
Memorial Service

PRELUDE

Rev. John Choi

“[I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- Revelation 7:9-10]

Today, our voices join in the ongoing heavenly anthem of praise. We have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the lives of so many who are dear to us. We come to remember them and to celebrate the extravagant giving of their lives to your kingdom. May God grant us grace, that we may find comfort, hope and encouragement, as we celebrate the thousands of reasons they have blessed others.

WORSHIP INTRO

In Everything... Give Thanks

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Christy Allen

Grace and peace to you from God, who was, and is and is to come!

Almighty and loving God of life, we thank and bless you for the encouragement you have given us in these precious hours we share together. We also thank you for the lives of each person we celebrate here today. In celebrating their lives, we are also thankful for the communion we share as a people called United Methodists. We thank you for the call to be united as one church, and for the gift of belonging to one another. We give thanks for these who have gone before and we remember that we who remain are “surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses.” In remembering, may we be inspired to leave this place full of unexpected joy, a testament to their gifts, which continue to bless so many.

And now, in this time of worship, may we find a renewal and an outpouring of your very presence, both in this place and in our hearts. We stand amazed in your presence, for you are good, you are our hope and you are a blazing passion that invites us to give all we have. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the resurrected one, who triumphs over death and the grave. Amen.

HYMNS

How Marvelous (I Stand Amazed)
Tis So Sweet

NAMING OF THE HONORED DEAD

Rev. Kevin Burney
Director of Ministerial Services

Family members and friends are invited to stand when their loved one’s name is read.
After each name is read, the congregation will respond, “Thank you Lord, for this your servant!”

HYMNS

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King
10,000 Reasons
PRAYER OF THANKS

Rev. Jim Fant

Eternal God, in all times and places, you have provided your church with individuals who have pointed others to you. We are thankful, and we bless your name for those we remember this day. We thank you for their testimony, for their gifts and for all they did for the sake of your kingdom. These were men and women who were used to bless so many. Because they were such a blessing, we also thank you, not just for what they did, but for who they were. We thank you for their love, their encouragement and the way they shared who they were so that we might see you in their lives. For the beautiful mosaic of each life, we are grateful. May we not just remember them today, but may we also celebrate, remembering that we have been joined by their lives and their work. We thank you for receiving these brothers and sisters into your arms. We praise you, God of life, and we honor your holy name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE


SERMON

Never Lose Sight of the Destination

Bishop Al Gwinn

CLOSING HYMN

Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul

Benediction

Bishop Davis

May God, who has given us patterns of holy living and victorious dying through the examples of his saints, strengthen our faith and devotion, and enable us to bear witness to the truth against all that stands against his kingdom. Amen.

Thank you to our youth delegation and recent ordinands for their participation in this service.
MEMOIRS
CLERGY

GRAHAM LEE ABBOTT
WALTER LEE ARNOLD
CARLINE EDWARD BROWN
CARLOS HUEL COOP
THOMAS WHITE DITTO
BILLY A. GLOVER
CHARLES LEWIS HULSE
JAMES ALLEN MORAN
HOMER HOWARD NORMAN
DAVID CAMPBELL ROSS
NANCY SUSAN SCHELDORF
DONALD KEITH SCILLEY
ROBERT J. STOUT
DONALD LEE TIPTON
CARL MORTON TOWNSEND
RUTH ALICE WINTERS
Graham Lee Abbott was born January 5, 1937, son of the late George Wilbur and Vada Blanche Wise Abbott. He received degrees from both Lindsey Wilson College and Asbury College, as well as a bachelors degree in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. He was awarded the Collegian Award from Asbury College and received an honorary degree.

Graham Abbott held many ministerial positions in The United Methodist Church throughout his life, including: Port Royal, New Castle, Seddon (Maysville), Paintsville First, Carlisle, Christ (Ashland), Mt. Sterling, Whitesburg/Seco/Jenkins, as well as in the Presbyterian Church at Graham Memorial. He served as the district superintendent for the Danville District from 1985-1990. Other positions included president of the Mason County-Maysville Ministerial Association, president of the Paintsville, KY Rotary Club, and secretary of several Kentucky Annual Conference committees.

He led several mission trips to the Middle East, visiting Egypt, Israel and Jordan. He also attended mission trips to Haiti, Columbia, South America and Africa, as well as having visited Belgium and Italy.

He was an avid golfer, baseball, basketball and softball player, and spent many years playing and coaching fast-pitch softball. He received the Paintsville, KY Citizen of the Year award. He also received many athletic awards, including All District, Regional, Conference and Honorable Mention All-State Basketball Player, and All District, Regional, Conference Baseball Player.

Abbott is survived by a son, Stephen Paul, of Danville, and two brothers, Leslie and Benny, both of Louisville. He was preceded in death by a son, Timothy David, three brothers, George Stanley, Ronnie Eugene, and W.R., and a sister, Lois Morgan.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 30, 2014, at the Letcher Funeral Home Chapel, with James Powell, Glenn Courts, and Paul Cropper officiating. A graveside service was held Saturday, May 31, 2014, at the Bedford Cemetery in Bedford, KY.

Rev. Arnold was born May 25, 1922, in Bryantsville, KY, to Walter Tribble Arnold and Ella Mae (Hagan) Arnold. At an early age, he was nicknamed “Pete,” by his brother, and was lovingly known by this name, to family and friends, for the rest of his life.

As a high school student in Garrard County, Pete received three all-tournament team awards in basketball. Nine months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, September, of 1942, he was ordered to report for induction into the US Army. He served with the Anti-Tank Company, 329th Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division until November of 1945. He landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 23, 1944, and fought his way through France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. By the end of the war, he was a staff-sergeant. Among his many decorations is the Bronze Star, which he earned on April 13, 1945, at Walternienburg, Germany.

Pete returned from Europe in November of 1945. During the three years he was overseas, a young girl named Jean Clark, of Lancaster, KY, had been writing letters to him. He discovered Jean had grown up while he was gone. After a brief but whirlwind courtship, they were married in Wilmore, KY, on September 4, 1946. They began their lives as farmers, but Pete was called back into active military service during the Korean conflict. He was honorably discharged from the Army in July of 1952. He then entered the Christian ministry as a Methodist minister, first as a student pastor in 1952, then ordained in 1956 and retired in 1989. During 37 years of active ministry, Rev. Arnold served the following Methodist churches, all in Kentucky: Lambert’s Chapel (1952, as a six month interim), Macedonia-Twin Branch-Wyatt’s Chapel Charge (1952-1954), Red House (1954-1959), Science Hill (1959-1962), Liberty (1962-1968), Louisa (1968-1969), Lexington Aldersgate (1969-1976), Florence (1976-1983). From 1983 through 1989, he served as district superintendent of the Frankfort District. His ministry in these congregations was distinguished by large numbers of confessions of faith, baptisms and by several young people who were called into full-time Christian service. He also led building projects at Lambert’s Chapel, Red House, Liberty and Lexington Aldersate.

On a battlefield in Belgium, Pete Arnold said a foxhole prayer that never left him. He believed he was miraculously delivered from death that day, when death was, in fact, all around him. He believed in a doctrine of radical conversion, because he was convinced God had radically converted him. He would go anywhere and try almost anything to invite a person to give attention to their relationship with Christ.

Rev. Arnold is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Jean (Clark) Arnold of Wilmore, KY, and two sons, Richard Lee (Judy) of Lancaster, KY, and Bill Tribble (Susan) of Lexington, KY. He is survived by five grandsons, Mark Allen (Yvonne), Adam Lee (Tessa), David Wesley (Stephanie), Jeremy Clark (Michelle), Alexander Joseph, and three great-grandchildren.
CARLINE EDWARD BROWN  
October 25, 1925 – August 29, 2014

Rev. Carline E. Brown, 88, of Franklin, KY, died on Friday, August 29, 2014, at Greenview Regional Hospital in Bowling Green, KY. The Scottsville, KY, native was a former teacher for Allen, Logan and Barren County Schools; a Methodist minister for over 33 years, having pastored churches in Logan, Barren, Warren and Hardin Counties; a World War II U.S. Army veteran; and member of First Methodist Church in Franklin, KY. He was a son of the late Bishop Garland Brown and Commie Mae Miller Brown.

Rev. Brown was ordained as a full member in 1959 and served the following churches until his retirement in 1991: Epley, Cave City, Faith (BG) and Stovall.

He is survived by his wife, Willa Brown, Franklin, KY; son, Bruce (Deborah) Brown, Franklin, KY; five grandchildren, Brad Brown, Chad Brown, Jamy Estes, Jackie Adams, Bryce Brown and Mathew Keller; three great grandchildren, Brandi Brown, Allen Brown and Tori Estes; and one nephew, Steve Brown, Cleveland, TN.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Susan Brown; son, Bryce Brown; and brother, Dale Brown.

Funeral services were held Sunday, August 31, 2014, at Goad Funeral Home, with Rev. Wayne Thomas and Rev. Chris Morgan officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

CARLOS HUEL COOP  
September 13, 1932 – August 19, 2014

Reverend Carlos H. Coop was born in Cumberland County, KY, on Tuesday, September 13, 1932, the son of David Estell and Eunice Cross Coop. He passed away from this life on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at Cumberland County Hospital in Burkesville, KY, having attained the age of 81 years, 11 months and 6 days. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Nina Lee Flowers Coop, whom he married on Monday, March 14, 1949. They had one daughter, Carolyn Helen, and a son-in-law, Billy Dean Milby.

Carlos was a farmer and then worked at Ford Motor Company before being called into the ministry; he was licensed to preach in May of 1958. His first charge assignment was to a five-church charge in Livingston, TN; the remainder of his ministry was in Kentucky. Four new churches were built under his leadership. He was a 1964 graduate of Lindsey Wilson College, where he received the Bible Award upon graduation, a 1968 graduate of Campbellsville College and a graduate of the United Methodist Pastor's School at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

He was accepted in the Burkesville Masonic Lodge #413 F. and A.M. in September, 1953, and received a 60-year pin as a master mason in September, 2013. He attained the level of Royal Arch and was also a member of the Scottish Rite, receiving the 32nd degree. He and his wife joined the Order of the Eastern Star at Campbellsville, KY, in 1967. When he returned to Cumberland County in June of 1982, he became very active in the Burkesville Chapter #380 Order of the Eastern Star. He served as chaplain for several years for both the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. On February 15, 2014, Rev. Carlos H. Coop was unanimously appointed grand father of Burkesville Chapter #380.

He retired from full-time ministry in June of 1982. After moving back to Cumberland County, he continued his ministry by serving the county's residents. In 2009, he officiated in 31 services, filling in at local churches when needed. He stopped by his local hospital almost daily, as well as visiting the funeral homes, the nursing home and many a shut-in. Everyone knew of his faith, because he shared Jesus Christ as often as possible. He entered Cumberland Valley Manor in December, 2010, where he witnessed to visitors, other residents and the employees until the time of his death. During his stay at CVM, he baptized three fellow residents.

The most memorable thing said at his visitation was: “He would visit anyone when asked to; he saw no difference in people.”
Rev. Thomas W. Ditto, 88, husband of Frances “Fran” Miller Ditto for 68 years, went to be with his Lord, Thursday, November 20, 2014, at Wesley Village.

He was born February 11, 1926, in Vine Grove, KY. Rev. Ditto was a pastor in the United Methodist Church for over 41 years and served in WWII with the US Navy. At the age of 19, he was called upon to lead a memorial service aboard his ship in the South Pacific for the death of President Roosevelt. This began his life in ministry.

Following graduations from Asbury College (1949) and Asbury Theological Seminary (1952), Tom was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. Tom and Fran served in ministry in the Kentucky Conference for 41 years, beginning as a student pastor at Mt. Tabor, then as pastor at Highland Heights, Russell, Morehead, Flemingsburg and Lexington Park. After serving as district superintendent for the Frankfort District, he finished his pastoral career at Somerset. In retirement, the Dittos remained active in ministry at Christ Church in Lexington, and, with their move to Wesley Village, at the Wilmore Free Methodist Church.

As part of his pastoral ministry, Tom became a tour host and later the regional director for Educational Opportunities Tours. With EO, Tom and Fran made approximately 39 trips to Israel over some 40 years, leading scores of parishioners on a life-impacting pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Tom and Fran made it a goal to take each of their grandchildren to Israel, at least once.

In addition to a love of travel, Tom passed along to his sons and grandchildren a passion for gardening and an appreciation of nature. Through many visits to his parents’ farm in Vine Grove, they learned a love of farming, fishing, hunting, hiking and camping. The family has many fond memories of vacation travels, particularly many summer trips to Lake Junaluska, NC.

When asked to reflect on his favorite hymns, Tom mentioned “How Great Thou Art,” “Jesus Loves Me,” “He is Lord” and “Amazing Grace,” as well as other Christmas and Easter songs. He also provided advice for his sons and grandchildren: “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy!”

In addition to Fran, other survivors include four sons: Rev. Dennis (Judy) of Perrysburg, OH; Dr. David of Nicholasville, KY; Dale (Louisa) of Lexington, KY; and Douglas (Karen) of Danville, KY; 14 grandchildren, Jessica, Jenny, Lauren, Lana, Lindsay, Lydia, William, Stewart, David, Jack, Daniel, Rachel, Emma, and Andrew; 10 great-grandchildren; and one brother, William (Paula) of Louisville, KY. He was preceded in death by a brother, James David, who gave his life as a pilot in WWII.

“Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: ‘How great thou art! How great thou art!’”

Billy [Billy] Arnold Glover was born on July 15, 1942, near Julian, in Christian County, KY. Billy was the youngest of five children born to Ernie Gooch Glover and Ofa Lela Haile Glover. He experienced divorce and death during his married life, but was greatly blessed when God led him to Brenda Sue Harris, the love of his life. They married on December 21, 1985. Billy was the father of Tina Marie, William Charles, John Philip, and Jay Kyle; grandfather of Dru, Eric, Ty, Elisabeth (Liz) and Margret (Maggie); and a great-grandfather. Billy also had eight nieces, four nephews, several great-nieces and nephews, and cousins.

When Billy was 11 years old, he was converted and joined Mt. Carmel Methodist Church. Two months later, his father died. For many years, his father had prayed that he would live to see one of his sons give his life completely to God. At age 14, in Camp Loucon’s Green Cathedral, Billy responded to God’s call by going to the altar to acknowledge a call to ministry. He tried desperately to find another path for his life and, during his senior year, God put before him an opportunity for an all-expense paid medical education, plus a new car of his choice. After a week of intense prayer, he turned this down. With God’s guidance and $1,500 from his father’s WWI service bonds, he headed to Kentucky Wesleyan College. He graduated in 1964 and then attended Candler School of Theology. He received his bachelor’s degree in divinity in 1967, and, as he said, “Praise be to God.” His greatest inspiration during these years, and until her death and beyond, was his mother. Her prayers and encouragement, along with God’s help, led him through many overwhelming situations.

Billy received his license to preach in 1960, was ordained as a deacon in 1965 and as an elder in 1969. In keeping with God’s call to serve rural churches, Billy was blessed by being appointed to Rockport Circuit, Hopkinsville First, Pleasant Grove/Rushing Chapel, McDaniels Circuit, Dawson Springs, Onton, Drakesboro/Pleasant Hill, West Point/City Road Chapel, Pleasure Ridge Park, Parkwood, Princeton Circuit, Corydon/Genova, Corydon/Genova/Bellview and Earlington. He also served as conference director of youth and Loucon camping ministry. He retired in June of 2000, continuing his ministry at Hopkinsville Circuit and Browder’s. During his years of service, he was blessed to receive over 200 professions of faith and many more by transfer. Also, he led building programs at Pleasant Grove and Drakesboro. A major blessing in his life was the many youth who responded to God during his ministry, especially Jay Smith, David Thomas, David Calhoun and Sylvia Baker-Noren. An important part of his service to God, Billy joined the Preacher’s Aid Society in 1977 and remained a member until his death. He was elected to the PAS Board of Managers in 1979 and served as the PAS treasurer from 1996 to 2014.

Billy’s years in the ministry were his joy and fulfillment. He often said, “I was a Methodist born, a Methodist fed and when I’m gone, I’ll be a Methodist dead.” He died on October 28, 2014. All who knew him loved him well. He was inspired by those he met and is missed by all of those he touched along the way.
Charles Lewis Hulse was a strong, good man, living his life the same way he besought others to live; passionately preaching the Gospel. He passed peacefully from this life at his residence in Lewisport, KY, with his family at his side. He was born in Henderson, KY, to the late Rev. Frank Bennett Hulse, Sr. and Lula Bronaugh Hulse.

He began his more than 60-year ministry in 1940 while in college at Western Kentucky University. He went on to earn his M.Div. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served for more than 30 years in the pastorate, during which time he became known as a powerful preacher and a man of great integrity. In 1970, he was appointed conference evangelist for the Louisville Conference. He was a fourth generation Methodist minister, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, as well as an uncle and brother.

The words “faithful servant of God” were truly personified by him. He was once called a fool for taking a stand based on conscience and faith. He responded to his critic in a calm, unwavering voice, stating his determination to follow God’s leading in the matter. As Jim Elliot is often quoted, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.” Those of us who witnessed that stand believe he will lose neither God’s “well done,” nor the spiritual impact such examples have made on others. Many are in the ministry and in the kingdom as a result of Charles’ deep devotion and commitment to his Lord.

During his ministry, he served the following churches in the Louisville and Kentucky Conferences: Shepherdsville Circuit, Upton, Clinton County Circuit, Hodgenville, Shawnee (Louisville), Greensburg, Marion and Trinity (Owensboro). He then became a full-time conference evangelist, holding revival services throughout the state, until his retirement.

He loved and was deeply loved by his family. Following multiple strokes, he was bed-bound during his last three years of life. Even in this condition, his sweet spirit and gentle faith greatly influenced those around him.

He is survived by his daughters: Sharon Akin (Jerry), Suzanne James (Don) and Sarah Wuertz (Dave); six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved and devoted wife of 68 years, Clara Taylor Hulse.

We will miss him tremendously here, but what rejoicing there is in heaven because he is now home with the God he loved and served so faithfully.


Rev. Moran graduated from Minerva High School (Mason County, KY) and Asbury College. He also completed the conference Course of Study, at which time he was ordained in the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church.

On October 16, 1941, Allen was gloriously converted and become a follower of Jesus Christ, along with his sweetheart, Zelma Jean Haley. Especially noteworthy, the couple was converted at the same altar, at the same service and at the same time. They were married on December 7, 1943, and remained so for 70 years. To this couple was born three children: Jim, Karen Jean and Rachel Anne.

Brother Moran is survived by his loving wife and ministerial partner, Zelma; children Jim (Susie), Science Hill; Karen (Barry) Powell, Richmond; Rachel Anne (Greg) Williams, Somerset; grandchildren, Jason, Jarrod and Dayne Powell, Richmond and Jessica Moran Walker, Crestview, FL; great-granddaughter Tristen Walker; great-grandsons Andrew and Nicholas Walker; brothers Stanley, Bill, Tom and Gordon; and sister Charlotte Moran Kalb. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gene; and his sisters, Mary, Jenny and Polly.

Initially a dairy farmer, Brother Allen worked side by side with his loving wife, Zelma. The couple was happy and successfully farmed in the Fleming, Mason County area. However, the Lord called Allen to preach the gospel. The couple left behind a successful farm life to pursue God’s call and claim upon their lives.

The Morans served at Harvieland, Taylorsville, Milton and Science Hill. During their tenure at Milton, the church relocated and a new church was built. Brother Moran served as conference evangelist for 15 years. This work took him as far away as Oregon, Oklahoma and other surrounding states. He preached numerous camp meetings and also did short-term missionary work in Africa and South America.

Rev. Moran is best described as a SOUL WINNER and a tireless worker for Christ. Numerous souls were won for the kingdom, including many re-dedications, and countless others were encouraged. Many preachers received support from the Morans. Some answered the call to preach under his ministry.

The Morans retired to Science Hill in their later years and attended Science Hill United Methodist Church, where they faithfully served. They were ambassadors of Christ in every way possible, encouraging every pastor and family. They were, and continue to be, well respected throughout the Kentucky Annual Conference. In the Science Hill area, they are esteemed not only in Methodist circles but in other denominations. Their exemplary Christian lives, Christ-like behavior, pursuit of holy living and loving, devoted marriage are examples for all.

Brother Allen Moran was a small man in stature, however, for those of us who knew him and loved him, a GIANT in the faith has passed, leaving behind a legacy of love and service that inspires us all!
Rev. Homer Norman was exposed to the love of Jesus by neighbors who took him to church as a youth. There he gained his love for singing and helping others. During the Korean War, he served in the Air Force, stationed off of a small island between Japan and Korea as a radar technician. When he was off duty, he sang in an Air Force quartet, sharing the gospel. After his military service, he married Nancy Taulbert and they had four children.

Rev. Norman entered the ministry in his early thirties, while living in Tallahassee, FL; his first church was Sardis United Methodist Church in Monticello, FL. He then moved his family to Estill County, KY. In 1969, his first Kentucky Conference assignment was at Wisemantown, so that he could attend Asbury Theological Seminary. While in Estill County, his doctor advised him to get some exercise, so he started taking his family to Hoedown Island at Natural Bridge State Park and they learned to square dance. He turned this exercise into a missionary opportunity for many youth in Estill County. He started three square dance teams involving elementary school children through high school youth. The teams traveled and competed in state and national competitions, winning nationals several times. The high school team spent several years touring with the Grand Ole Opry and performed several times at the Grand Ole Opry itself. They also performed for eight years at Renfro Valley. Norman enjoyed the opportunity to work with many under-privileged kids in the county. Through this ministry, he was able to reach and change many lives. The following is a Facebook post from Ed Horn, who was one of the young dancers:

In 1 Corinthians 13, it teaches us that love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. Love never fails. Rev. Homer Norman's life exemplified this truth through his way of accepting people. Many will miss him, but his spirit lives on through the thousands of people he positively influenced. If it had not been for him investing in the lives of Estill County youth, there would have been many people gone astray.

To his loving family, we appreciate you letting us take a little and sometimes a lot of his time in shaping us into the people that we are today.

Thank you for investing in our lives. You made a difference. You made a change in thousands. Ultimately, you did what God had called you to do in your life of ministering to the masses. We love you and will see you soon.

Rev. Norman also built a 16-foot star for the Estill County community, which is located on Rock House Mountain. It is lit from the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas. The star can be seen for miles coming from Richmond to Irvine. This is just a small sample of the selfless acts he performed to serve others.

Homer Howard Norman will be deeply missed by all whose lives were touched by his remarkable presence.
NANCY SUSAN SCHELDORF
April 24, 1947 – November 20, 2014

Nancy Susan Scheldorf, 67, of Louisville, died on November 20, 2014.

She was born on April 24, 1947, in Erie, PA, and moved to Louisville in 1954. She graduated from Fern Creek High School in 1965.

Nancy studied art at the University of Cincinnati. After doing freelance artwork, she was the artist and photographer at the Louisville Zoo from 1975 to 1987, assisting with public relations, education, signage and exhibit decoration. During this period, she was active in the Sierra Club, the Beckham Bird Club, and St. Paul United Methodist Church, especially in the choir and the puppet ministry.

She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Louisville in 1986, earned an M.Div. from Garrett Evangelical Seminary in 1990, and was ordained an elder in the Louisville Conference in 1992.

Nancy was a United Methodist pastor for eleven years, serving Stevenson’s/Stuart’s Chapels (1990-92), Corydon/Geneva (1992-95), Providence First (1995-99), and Cecelia/Summit/Ridge Spring (1999-2001). She served on many district and conference committees, and was especially active at Loucon, the conference camp. In 1988, she became the first woman to preach from Pulpit Rock in Mammoth Cave National Park for the “Church Revisited” historical program. She attended the World Methodist Conference in Kenya in 1986 and Brazil in 1998. She and her sister served with Volunteers in Mission in Guatemala in 1994. She went with her mother and sister on the Board of Global Ministries Study Tour to India and Pakistan in 2004.

Nancy took honorable location back to Louisville in 2001 and worked at Heimerdinger Cutlery and ElderCare4Families. Her battle with breast cancer began in 2003 and forced her retirement in 2012. During this period she was active in the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the KY Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC), United Methodist Women, and Church Women United.

She enjoyed gardening, reading, whistling, bicycling both the Louisville Loop and the Ohio River Greenway, and many other family activities.

She was preceded in death by her father, Owen Scheldorf.

She is survived by her mother, Genny Scheldorf; her brother, Tim, and his children, Gretchen Vice (Kyle), David Scheldorf (Michele), and Amanda Steenhuis (Quinten); her sister, Cindy; her brother, Gary (Cindy P) and their children Ethan, Cameron, and Emma; two great-nephews, three great-nieces, two aunts, one uncle and many cousins.

The memorial service celebrating Nancy’s life was held Saturday, December 6, 2014, at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

DONALD KEITH SCILLEY
March 11, 1936 – December 17, 2014

Donald Scilley was born March 11, 1936, in Fargo, ND, and was reared in Leonard. He died at home in Lexington, KY, on December 17, 2014. He was the son of John and Harriet Scilley.

He married the love of his life, Doris Ann Young, on December 27, 1959. She is the daughter of Charlie and Della Young, who were pillars of the Highland Church, Lincoln County. For 55 years, Doris served as his soul-mate and dedicated co-servant. They made their first contribution to heaven when their first child, Lisa Ann, was stillborn. Two additional children survive: Dawn (Scot) Cheetham, Stanford, KY, and Daniel (Michelle) Scilley, Maysville, KY. There are six grandchildren: Mariah, Aaron, Marissa and Landon Scilley; Isaac Hughes and Lindsay Cheetham.

Donald was one of five children. A brother, Allen, preceded him in death by three months, on September 15. Charles lives in Leonard, ND. Larry lives in Rochester, MN, and a sister, Margaret, lives in Bismarck, ND. His father died in 1963. His mother died on March 17, 2015, three months to the day of Don’s death. She would have been 106 years old on April 4.

Don graduated from Asbury College in 1958. While there, he served as president of the Methodist Movement, was chosen as student of the month, directed lighting for the movie, “Plus Power,” played Disciple John for five years in an Easter reenactment and was superintendent of jail services. He also played basketball for the Cahoks for four years.

He did graduate work at Lexington Theological, Emory in Atlanta and Scarritt College, in Tennessee. He taught school at Kings Mountain, Memorial High (Lincoln County) and Germantown (Bracken County). Various accomplishments include: scout master for 35 boys; adjunct professor at Asbury Theological Seminary; secretary of the Kentucky Conference for four years and statistician for 12 years; member of the Uniting Committee of the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences; chair for the work of Evangelism on district and conference levels; certified herald and proclaimer of evangelism programs, as well as honored by Division of Radio and Television for work in that field; Kentucky colonel; honorary colonel in the Kentucky State Police; nominee to conduct worship service at the White House; attendance with family at the inauguration of President George W. Bush and still pastoring with 58 years of ministry.

Don served the following churches: Highland-Kings Mountain, Moreland (Lincoln County); Germantown-Salem (Mason County); Mt. Zion (Clark County); Liberty (Casey County); Maysville Central (Mason County); Cynthia First (Harrison County); Fort Thomas Highlands (Campbell County) and back to Highland (Lincoln County) for nine more years after retirement. He was laid to rest in the Highland Cemetery across from his beloved “little white church beside the road.”

Each church was unique and special to Rev. Donald Keith Scilley!
ROBERT J. STOUT  

Reverend Rob Stout was born April 20, 1953. At the time of his unexpected death on January 25, 2015, he was serving as pastor of Centertown and Liberty United Methodist Churches. Rev. Stout had previously served congregations in Louisville (City Road Chapel, West Broadway, Preston Highway, Mt. Holly), Bewleyville and Horse Cave in Kentucky and at Bells United Methodist Church in Maryland. He served in a number of capacities in the United Methodist Church, including: Urban Worker Network, C.O.S.R.O.W. and ethnic minority local churches. He also served on the Kentucky Council of Churches.

Rob was a graduate of the University of Louisville, with degrees in political science and chemistry, and held a M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. He immersed himself in the communities where he served as pastor, volunteering at local schools and serving on many boards. Rob was active in Rotary, Leadership Hart County and had been a docent at the Speed Museum. He was involved in ministerial groups and other ecumenical community activities as well.

Rob's knowledge of the people and places where he lived and visited, combined with his love of history and geography, would have served him well had he chosen a career as a tour guide instead of the ministry. His knowledge of films, music and art made him a formidable opponent in any game of trivia, although, to Rob, knowledge was never trivial. Rob was a patron of arts groups in Louisville and Horse Cave, having served on the boards of several theaters, including the Horse Cave Repertory Theatre.

He is survived by his son, Richard H. MortonStout and Rick's daughters, Amyah and Myla; his son, Jonathan H. MortonStout; Rick and Jon's sister Sophie H. Maier, all of Louisville; brothers, Marty Stout of Bowling Green, KY, and Scott Stout and family of Athens, AL, as well as a host of parishioners and theatre folk who thought of him as family.

DONALD LEE TIPTON  
August 29, 1934 – August 31, 2014

Donald Tipton was a preacher for over 60 years, traveling around the world serving in countless revivals and pastoring several churches. He graduated from Asbury College in 1967 and Asbury Seminary in 1974. He was married to Betty Jo Tipton for 61 years and leaves behind a rich legacy, including two children, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and numerous friends.

He is best remembered for his kindness to everyone, his willingness to go the extra mile and, most of all, his faithfulness to God. He picked this verse for the stone that marks the spot where his earthly body now rests: “I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4).

Donald Tipton was born on August 29, 1934, and made it home to be with his Lord on August 31, 2014.
CARL MORTON TOWNSEND  
*May 29, 1946 – November 13, 2014*

Carl Morton Townsend Jr., 68, of Florence, died Thursday, November 13, 2014, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Florence. He was a retired minister of the United Methodist Church, as well as a Kentucky colonel. He was a pastor in Maryland at Baltimore Idlewild, Damascus, and Govens-Boundary churches. He served in Kentucky at Midway and Vanceburg.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenna and Carl Sr., and brother, Stan Townsend. He is survived by stepmother, Georgia Townsend, of Erlanger; sister-in-law, Maureen Townsend, of Florence; nephews, Rocky and Patrick Townsend, of Florence; and Peter Townsend, of Huntsville, AL.

A funeral service was held Monday, November 17, 2014, at Linnemann Family Funeral Home and Cremation Center.

RUTH ALICE WINTERS  
*August 9, 1933 – January 19, 2015*

Dr. Ruth Alice Winters, 81, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on January 19, 2015.

She was born August 9, 1933, in Canton, Ohio. Ruth was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and a devoted member of Crestwood United Methodist Church. In her early career, Ruth was a professional photographer and journalist. Later in life, she attended United Theological Seminary and completed her D.D. She was an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church. Before retiring, she served many churches throughout our community and served as a chaplain at local hospitals. Ruth also loved to write and was a published author.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Dale O. Winters, her son Mike Winters, and her brother, Dennis Foreman.

Dale and Ruth were married for 62 years and have three children, Bruce Winters, Colleen Winters and Heather Winters Alford (Hank); 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 23, 2015, at Crestwood United Methodist Church, with burial at Floydsburg Cemetery.
SPOUSES

VERNA AMSTUTZ
JESSIE ELIZABETH BOLES
ROWENA F. EVERETT
ALICE JEAN GIBSON
MARGARET JOSEPHINE HUNTER
MARGIE M. LEWIS
VIRGINIA FERGUSON THOMPSON
VERNA AMSTUTZ  
March 27, 1921 – July 6, 2014

Mrs. Verna Charlene Amstutz, 93, died peacefully in her sleep on July 6, 2014. She went to heaven to be with Jesus and her husband of 66 years, Blanchard.

Verna was born March 27, 1921. She married the Rev. Blanchard Amstutz on June 6, 1947. Blanchard and Verna began traveling as evangelists, conducting revival meetings across the nation, singing and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. She was a godly woman, who truly loved Jesus. In 2001, Blanchard retired from the Methodist church and shortly after, he and Verna started their own interdenominational ministry in which they conducted revival meetings, led praise and worship, ministered in nursing homes and conducted weekly meetings at the local hospital. The highlight of their ministry was when they became volunteer chaplains at the Federal Correctional Prison in Summit, where they ministered faithfully every week. The inmates loved them dearly, and many of them came to know Christ through their ministry.

She is survived by four brothers, one sister, three sons and their families, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held at North Heights Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN, on July 12, 2014.

JESSIE ELIZABETH BOLES  
February 27, 1929 – January 11, 2015

Jessie Elizabeth “Tootsie” Boles, 85, of Bowling Green, passed away January 11, 2015, at The Medical Center at Bowling Green.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Thomas Morgan Boles, Sr.; parents, Jesse Thomas and Renie Capps Colter; siblings, Kenneth Colter, Cecil Colter, WT Colter, Molly Colter Martin, and Ruby Colter Crawford; and grandson, Ryan Boles. Elizabeth was involved in her husband’s ministries with the United Methodist Church as they traveled and served at churches across Kentucky and Tennessee. She touched the lives of many while serving with the church and, after his death, she continued her service at child care centers and volunteered with the foster grandparent program in Bowling Green. In her later years, she was happiest when spending time with her family, bargain hunting at yard sales and thrift stores, or fishing. She was also active in her Neighborhood Watch.

She is survived by daughter, Trisha Lawrence (Kelly); son, Thomas Morgan Boles, Jr. (Doris) and step-son, Sam Boles (Becky) of Glasgow; two grandchildren, Hannah Barahona (Jose) and Andrew Lawrence (Sara); four great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Olivia, Audrey and Elisabeth; three step grandchildren, Sammy, Christy and Melissa; several step great grandchildren and step great great grandchildren; and several special nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held January 15 at the J.C. Kirby and Son Broadway Chapel, with burial at the Glasgow Municipal Cemetery.
ROWENA F. EVERETT  
July 2, 1914 – July 2, 2014

Rowena Fritz Everett, 100, of Fairview, passed away at 12:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, of natural causes. Rowena was born July 2, 1914, the daughter of the late Edward Spurlin and Martha Isabelle Clark Fritz in Christian County, KY. She was a graduate from Western Kentucky University and taught in many schools in Kentucky before her retirement. She was a member of Fairview United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. T. D. Everett, Jr., in 2009; her brothers, Robert Alexander, Stanley, Ted and Bill; her sisters, Opal Berry, Ruth Webb, Suzie Vass and Ester Lindsey. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Monday, July 7, 2014, at Fairview United Methodist Church, with Rev. Gayla Webb and Rev. Dr. Doug Mosley officiating. Burial followed in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

ALICE JEAN GIBSON  
August 29, 1927 – April 17, 2015

Alice Jean Ketterer Gibson, 87, born August 29, 1927, in Ashland, KY, passed away April 17, 2015. She was the daughter of the late Leonard Martin Ketterer and Sarah Frances Ketterer. She was married to the late Rev. Dr. Raymond W. Gibson for 60 plus years. She is survived by two daughters, Cynthia Gibson Warren (John), Scottsville, VA, and Valerie Gibson Smith (Charles), Frankfort, KY; grandchildren, Ryan Berry (Liz), Rachel Besecker (Dustin), and Zachary Smith; great grandchildren, Gwyneth Sarai Besecker and Eli Slade Besecker.

At a young age, Alice Jean helped support her family through her musical talents. She was a graduate of Ashland Senior High School, class of 1945, and the Ashland branch of University of Kentucky College, Ashland, KY. She studied music at George Peabody College and graduated from Scarritt College with a B.A. in church music and Christian education. She was known as an accomplished organist and pianist, a certified director of music for the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church, kindergarten teacher, Kentucky Conference officer of the United Methodist Women, member of American Guild of Organists and for her work as director of Christian education at Bowman Memorial UMC (1949-1951). She also served as organist and choir director at Wheelwright Community Church from 1951-1964. She shared ministry in the United Methodist Church with her husband for 47 years. Since 2010, she played the organ at Robert’s Chapel.

She loved God, and her faith was an inspiration to others. She used her time and talents to uplift people in need. Alice Jean had a good heart that was reflected in her character. She was an avid University of Kentucky basketball fan and enjoyed baking and cooking. She was especially known for the pies and cookies she made and gave to her friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Sue Ketterer Cooper (Richard W.), Science Hill, KY; brothers-in-law, Richard W. Cooper, Science Hill, KY; and Robert L. Pace, Fort Worth, TX. She is survived by her sister, Ann Ketterer Pace (Robert L.), Ft. Worth, TX; nieces, Virginia C. Boss (Bruce), Beverlee C. Dowdy, Vivian C. Dalton (Arwin); nephews, Brad Cooper, Nelson Pace, David Pace; great-nieces, Heather Roach (Brian), Paula Roberts (Adam); great-great niece Kaylah Roach; and great-great nephews, Tyler Roach and Cameron Roach.

A memorial service for Alice Jean was held April 21 at First United Methodist Church of Lexington.
Margaret Josephine “MarJo” Hunter was born October 13, 1928, to Jesse and Ethel Baber, in Woodford County, KY. On August 14th, 1954, she was married to Harold G. Hunter by Dr. H. C. Ogles in the chapel of the Epworth United Methodist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. MarJo went home to be with her Lord on April 13, 2015, after spending 29 days in the ICU at St. Joseph Hospital-East/Lexington. She was a member of the Andover-First United Methodist Church in Lexington, KY.

In addition to being survived by her husband, she is also survived by her three sons: Harold David (Sandy) Hunter of Morehead, KY; Michael Paul (Carla) Hunter of Lexington, KY; John Floyd (Traci) Hunter of Shelbyville; eight grandchildren, Adam Hunter of Indianapolis, IN, Chana (Ben) Goodwin of Ft. Wayne, IN, Katie Hunter of Morehead, KY, Annie, Corrie and Ellie Hunter, all of Lexington, KY, and John, Jr. and Jackie Hunter of Shelbyville, KY. She was a devoted, loyal, faithful, supportive pastor’s wife, devoted mother and loving grandmother. She received her A.A. from Southeast Community College, Cumberland, KY, and graduated with high honors. She continued her education at Eastern Kentucky University, where she received a B.A. in English, again graduating with honors. She received her M.Ed. from Morehead State University. She taught school in the places where we lived and served.

MarJo was actively involved in the work of each of the churches we served over the years. She sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and VBS classes, served on the Administrative Board, and was president of the United Methodist Women at Epworth UMC/Lexington for nearly 18 years. She loved cooking, sewing, raising flowers, collecting dolls and bears as her hobby over the years, and traveling (by air, that is). She loved flying to many cities while we served on the General Board of Publication. I would be remiss if I failed to say that she was an avid “Big Blue” fan.

She was faithful in her love and devotion to the United Methodist Church through her prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. As we traveled up and down the Big Sandy in the Ashland District, she went to nearly all of the churches in the district and knew the names of each pastor and their family members.

You are now in our Lord’s presence, my beloved sweetheart, and someday, by and through his grace, I will see you again. You will always be alive in my heart.

MarJo’s visitation and funeral service was held at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home in Lexington, KY. Those officiating were her pastor, Rev. Todd Nelson and the Rev. Dr. Lowell Langefeld. We sang three of her favorite hymns, “Amazing Grace,” “How Great Thou Art” and “Because He Lives.” Her body was laid to rest in the Hillcrest Memorial Park, Lexington, KY.

Submitted by Harold G. Hunter
Virginia was born in Metcalfe County, KY, one of three children of Alex and Virgie Ferguson. She eventually met and courted her husband, Rev. S. Reid Thompson, of neighboring rural Barren County. They married on July 31, 1943, in the Hiseville Methodist parsonage. Virginia was a gracious and faithful minister’s wife through over 45 years of service which involved moves to Chapel Hill (Allen County), Richardsville, Gradyville, Mannsville, Maceo, Livermore, Kuttawa, Sturgis, Jones Memorial (Louisville), Cooper Memorial (Louisville), Broadway (Bowling Green), Trinity (Owensboro) and Crescent Hill. Virginia was an excellent homemaker and made all the parsonages warm and welcoming. She enjoyed the annual conferences, the clergy spouse meetings, and numerous other church activities. She developed a special fondness of standing by her husband at the door to greet the congregation after worship services.

Reid and Virginia retired to Cave City, KY, in 1989, and then served in interim ministries at Park City, Faith (Glasgow) and Gamaliel. Grandchildren helped draw them back to Louisville. Reid passed away in February, 2008. Virginia and Reid were preceded in death by their son, Samuel, who died in Vietnam in 1967, and whose son, Christopher, was born later the same year. Their daughter, Joyce Thompson, died in 2009, in Louisville. Their surviving son, Stephen Thompson, resides in Louisville with his wife, Rozanna, and sons, Price and Samuel. Christopher Thompson has brothers, Matt King (father of Tyler and Carly) and Ron King (father of Connar).

At her death, Virginia was a member of Middletown United Methodist Church, and a Celebration of Life was held in her memory at Ratterman Funeral Home, East Louisville. Interment was at Kuttawa Cemetery, Lyon County, Kentucky.

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” Psalm 121 (KJV)
The Kentucky Annual Conference United Methodist Church
Retirement Service

PRELUDE
Russellville UMC Bell Choir

GATHERING AND CALL TO WORSHIP
Rev. Nancy Tinnell

“You whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off;’ do not fear for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.’ ” - Isaiah 41:9-10

Dear brothers and sisters, we have gathered here and now for a special time. This is a time of celebration. This is a time when we rejoice and give thanks. This is a time of legacy - a time when we rejoice in the collective stewardship of those who are stepping into a new role. While we officially recognize the closing of a chapter for some, we know that more ministry awaits us all. We rejoice in these words from Isaiah, and in the promise that comes from the knowledge that our God is for us and will never leave us.

Let us rise in celebration of the legacy of those we honor today. Let us praise the God who has called us all into his service, a service which extends to the whole world. He is the author of the story, and we rejoice in the pages within which we find ourselves.

HYMNS OF CELEBRATION MEDLEY
Rev. John Baldwin

Blessed Assurance
Love Divine
My Jesus, I Love Thee

VIDEO
Love Comes to Life

SPECIAL MUSIC
Russellville UMC Bell Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Rev. Quentin Sholtz

God of wind, word and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit to empower all of us for the work of your kingdom. We give thanks for all the gifts, great and small, which you have poured out upon your children. Accept us, and our gifts, allowing us to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives with you in unity with the Holy Spirit as one God, forever. Amen.

LEGACY VIDEO OF THE RETIRING CLASS OF 2015

WORDS OF BLESSING AND GIVING OF CERTIFICATES
Bishop Lindsey Davis

Bishop Davis: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you came to us from congregations where the Spirit of the Lord was upon you; and you were charged to preach to the brokenhearted, to visit the captive and anoint those who were bruised. These things you have done.

Congregation: We thank God for the community of the faithful, in which the Word of God found response. Countless persons have depended upon you for help and direction. In the providence of God, you know that both suffering and joy can be God’s ways of teaching and healing.
Bishop Davis: At your ordination, you received authority to read the holy scriptures in the church of God, to preach the word, to celebrate the sacraments, and to order the life of the church. At your consecration, you received authority to equip the people of God and to embody the unity of the congregation's worship with its life in the world. By God's grace, you did many things that seemed to be beyond your power.

Congregation: We thank God that you were given the vision to be faithful. Death and illness have not come on schedule. The truth has not always been easy to preach. We know something of the grace by which you have lived, and we thank God for your vision.

Bishop Davis: Never think lightly of the great good that God has brought through you. Continue to be true to your calling. May God's love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

God of grace, you fill your servants with the vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these men and women, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them. Give them a sense of your abiding presence, that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

To God Be the Glory

BENEDICTION

Rev. Gary Chapman

For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, and fields of service not yet touched. With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley, “May the world be your parish.”

Congregation: Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do. Live out the vision God has given you. May God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you. May you be the channels for God's mercy, grace and peace to the world, wherever you may be!

All: Amen
RETIREES
CHARLES HUGH ALLEN
MICHAEL A BROWN
MICHAEL LEE CANADA
LARRY GREGORY EASTERLING
FRED ALLEN GOODWIN
BENJAMIN H HAHN
KENNETH R LEMASTER
GARY DOUGLAS ROWAN*
EWELL CLAY SAMMONS*
ROBERT EUGENE SCHAEFFER
CLIFFORD P SPARKS
WILLIAM BARTLEY TAYLOR
LARRY JACKSON VICKERS*
PAUL DAVID WARNER

*Did not submit a biography for the program.
CHARLES HUGH ALLEN

How does one sum up 33 years of ministry in the Kentucky Annual Conference and service at eight episcopal appointments? It has been a journey consisting of joy and sorrow, victory and defeat: the things of which life is made. I have no regrets. It was and still is a joy to serve the Lord and the people of the United Methodist Church in Kentucky.

My call to ministry began at age 20, when I found the Lord while in the US Army and stationed at Fort Knox, KY, through a military program called Operation Appreciation, in Louisville. My call to full-time ministry came, however, while stationed at Camp Roberts Military Reservation near Paso Robles, CA, in 1969.

When I got out of the Army, I studied for three years at Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute and subsequently graduated from Asbury College in 1977. My wife, Carol, and I married in our senior year at Asbury in 1976. By the time I graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1982, we had two children, Michael and Heather. After receiving my M.Div., I was ordained a probationary member and was appointed to a two-point charge, Mackville/Antioch United Methodist Churches in the old Danville District. In 1984, I was ordained as an elder while serving at the Benham United Methodist Church.

I have served in eight appointments, three of which were two-point charges: Mackville/Antioch, 1982-83; Benham, 1983-86; Ashland Trinity (now Cannonsburg), 1986-88; Midway, 1988-95; Carthage, 1995-2000; Warsaw/Drury, 2000-02; Tollesboro, 2002-2007; and, in 2007, at my present charge, Catlettsburg. Although I am retiring, the Catlettsburg congregation has been gracious enough to ask me to stay on in retired status as I begin my ninth year with them. I will continue to give them full service in Bible-based preaching, teaching, leadership and visitation. I don't plan on slacking off just because I'm "retired."

As in any journey, there have been rough patches, as well as smooth ones, but through it all I have been sustained by my faith in God and the surety of my call to ministry. I have relied on the Lord and his grace to keep me steady and kind. I firmly believe I am led by the hand of God to serve him in Kentucky and he keeps me in the way I should go.

I thank Carol, my wife of 38 years, who has travelled this journey with me as a helpmate, best friend, secretary and, yes, even critic. There has been joy, there has been sadness, but I have always learned more in the storm than I did in the sunshine. I've never been unhappy or bored and I thank Jesus, my Lord and Savior, for his calling upon my life, and for his faithfulness to me and my family.

Esther Kerr Rusthoi said it best:

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ.

One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase, So bravely run the race 'til we see Christ.

Thank you, Jesus, for allowing me to reach this stage of my life. I know there will be much more to accomplish before I sleep, miles to go and places and people to see before I rest in thee. God bless you all. Amen.

MICHAEL A. BROWN

Michael Allen Brown made his profession of faith as a young boy in a United Methodist Church parsonage under the guidance of his father, Rev. Kenneth Brown. He acknowledged a call to ministry during his senior year of high school and began to prepare for that journey first at Lindsey Wilson College, and then at Kentucky Wesleyan College and Asbury Theological Seminary.

In 1977, during his attendance at Asbury, he took his first student pastor appointment at the Lebanon Circuit, later followed by Miller-Soule Chapel. His first full-time appointment was Elkhorn in Campellsville, where he stayed for four years. During this time, he was commissioned as a chaplain in the US Air Force and served in the Reserves. He also served full-time at Grand Rivers for one year, prior to being called to active duty service in 1986.

He served assignments in Washington State, Texas, Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, Korea, South Carolina and North Carolina. His first assignment as a senior installation chaplain was at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. From there he became the deputy command chaplain to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in the Pentagon. After that, he became the senior installation chaplain at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. Finally, in 2010, Michael became the first senior installation chaplain for Joint Base Charleston, which encompassed an air force base with the largest fleet of C-17 aircraft and a navy weapons station which hosts the Navy Nuclear Power Training Unit and Command.


In 2013, after more than 27 years of active duty service, Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Brown retired from the chaplaincy, surrounded by his wife Karen, his son Brian and daughter-in-law Erica, who are both on active-duty Air Force, his daughters Deana and Kara, his son-in-law and three of his five granddaughters.

Since then, he has served as a musician with the contemporary praise and worship team at Bethany United Methodist Church in Summerville, South Carolina. He is also an FAA licensed pilot and mentors youth who are interested in aviation.
MICHAEL LEE CANADA

I was born at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Humboldt, TN, on September 14, 1949. Humboldt is known as the “Strawberry Capitol of West Tennessee,” so it is appropriate that I will retire now, at the end of this strawberry season. I am very appreciative of my heritage. I grew up with parents, grandparents and other family who faithfully served in the Cumberland Presbyterian churches of Dyer and Rutherford, TN.

My church connection changed when I married Delace Wofford, who was serving as a youth director for First United Methodist in Dyer. Many thanks to George Phillips, who led a revival in Dyer and then mentioned the job opportunity to her parents. We were married in August, 1979, and began ministry together. Five years later, I realized I was being called into the pastorate. In 1986, I attended Asbury Theological Seminary and graduated with my M.Div.

From seminary, we moved to Lehigh Acres, FL, where I served for six years as the education and youth director at Christ United Methodist. We returned to Kentucky to be closer to family and to begin my ordination process. I served five churches on the South Cumberland Charge and I have been appointed to Washington and Hawesville United Methodist Churches.

We are parents of three wonderful children: Ian, Ember and Andrew, as well as being Yohan Park’s “American family,” since his parents still live in South Korea. We have a Japanese son-law, Shigeyuki, and our first granddaughter, Sakura. We have moved to Nicholasville to be close to them and to our son Andrew and his wife, Alexandra.

The last time Annual Conference was in Bowling Green, I was ordained as an elder! Serving here in the Kentucky Annual Conference for 19 years has been great. I have met many wonderful people. I plan to stay on track, even in retirement, and continue serving an awesome God. I am looking forward to being a part-time pastor at Mt. Lebanon and pursuing other ministry opportunities.

My appreciation goes out to the district superintendents, bishops and staff of the Kentucky Annual Conference, for their prayerful work and support for me over the years. We certainly are “blessed to be a blessing.”

LARRY GREGORY EASTERLING

The Reverend Larry Easterling is currently the system CPE supervisor for Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA). Until July 1, 2011, he was also director of spiritual and pastoral care at MSHA, a 13-hospital system in east Tennessee and southwest Virginia. Johnson City Medical Center is the accredited ACPE Center within the MSHA System. Rev. Easterling joined MSHA in October of 2006. He is a certified ACPE supervisor in clinical pastoral education.

Prior to joining MSHA, from 2000 to 2006, Rev. Easterling was vice president of mission and spiritual care at Advocate Christ Medical Center and system vice president of clinical education at Advocate Health Care in Chicago, IL. From 1993 to 2000, he was an ACPE supervisor/AAPC counselor, coordinator of pastoral counseling, director of the Department of Pastoral Services and the financial liaison of team management at Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Clinic in Temple, TX.

Rev. Easterling received a Th.D. from Columbia Theological Seminary, an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School, an M.B.A. in healthcare administration from St. Xavier University, an M.S. in education and a B.A. from the University of Kentucky.

He holds professional licenses and certificates, including that of a licensed marriage and family therapist, and is an approved supervisor for licensed professional counselors. Rev. Easterling was chair of the Nominating Committee for the North Central Region ACPE from 2002-2004 and has served on various committees of the ACPE since 1993. Currently, he is a member of the Southeast Region Accreditation Committee.

He is a published author and an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church.

Most importantly, he is married to Julia Rogers, who graciously chooses to live with him. He has one daughter, Anna, and a stepson, Mark.
FRED ALLEN GOODWIN

Rev. Goodwin and his wife, Jan, have been married for 34 years. Together, they have four adult children and nine grandchildren.

Residing in Lewisport, KY, Fred has spent the last 24 years in extension ministries, serving persons with low incomes and those with the disease of addiction. His appointments have included The United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth, Hancock County Family Resource/Youth Services Center, director of the Community Service Block Grant in seven western Kentucky counties, church administrator and certified alcohol and drug counselor. He also served the Owensboro district for 16 years as the director of lay speaking ministries.

In his retirement, Fred will be working to develop his life coaching ministry, as well as getting back to his farming heritage through gardening.

BENJAMIN H. HAHN

I was born in Dallas, Texas. My parents moved to Harrison, Arkansas, when I was two years old. While in the eighth grade, my parents moved once again to Battle Creek, Michigan. In all three states, the Methodist Church played an intricate part in my spiritual formation. For this I am forever grateful.

In 1979, my wife, Brenda, our three children and I moved to Nicholasville, Kentucky. I was enrolled at Asbury College to major in biblical studies, preparing for the ministry, as God had called me to be a pastor. It was in Nicholasville that we met Dr. and Mrs. David Ditto and they invited us to visit a new church startup, Christ United Methodist Church. We started attending and became active members. One year later I was placed on staff as youth pastor and assistant to Rev. Danny Philpot.

After graduating from Asbury College, I enrolled at Asbury Seminary. It was during this time that Bishop Paul Duffy encouraged me to remain in Kentucky and become a part of the Kentucky Annual Conference.

Brenda and I sought the Lord in prayer and fasting and He directed us to remain in Kentucky and pursue ordination in the Kentucky Annual Conference. In 1983, I was ordained as a deacon and then as an elder in 1986.

Brenda and I are eternally grateful for each of the appointments we served:

- Calvary United Methodist (Cov. District) 1984-1989
- Tower United Methodist (Cov. District) 1987-1989
- Alexandria United Methodist (Cov. District) 1989-1995
- Versailles United Methodist (Lex-Frank. Dist.) 1995-2002
- Childrens Homes of Kentucky (Lex. District) 2002-2005
- Alexandria United Methodist (Cov. District) 2007-2015

I am also grateful to the guys in my accountability group. For the past 25 plus years, you have been such great spiritual mentors, as we have labored together in God’s kingdom. To each of you: I was blessed by your faithfulness to our covenant group.

Brenda and I look forward to serving the Lord in retirement. We are not sure what the Lord has for us, but we will continue to serve Him faithfully by winning people to Christ, helping to disciple them in the faith and equipping them to serve God faithfully through the local church.
KENNETH R. LEMASTER

I grew up in the small town of Louisa, in northeastern Kentucky, twenty miles south of Ashland. I grew up attending church, and the first contact with the United Methodist Church was Sunday School and U.M.Y.F. My mom and dad had the largest influence in my life. They always encouraged me to love God, family, church and country. I came to know Christ when I was fifteen years old and that started a journey for which I am so grateful.

Then something happened that would change the direction of my life forever. I was a sophomore in high school and met a young lady, Kay Wallace, who is the love of my life. She has made such a difference in my life. Attending church with Kay, I listened to the Rev. Frank Wallace's sermons.

Then came the opportunity to speak at First United Methodist Church in Louisa, when their pastor was out of town. The Rev. Kenneth Clay, superintendent of the Ashland District, must have been desperate for pastors when he called on a Friday evening and asked if I would fill in for a pastor who was on vacation. Whether it was chance, or the hand of God, I said yes. A few months later, Rev. Clay called and asked me if I would be interested in pastoring the Johnson County Parish, a four-church charge. I said yes, stayed two years and then moved to Allen, KY to pastor the Allen United Methodist Church.

The rest is history. The Allen and Dwale churches merged in 1985 to become Allen Christ. In 1988, we built a church; in 1998, we built Wesley Christian School; and in 2008, we built Wesley High School, which now has over 200 students. We are now in the final stages of building Wesley Christian High School Gym.

I am thankful for all the district superintendents and bishops along the journey, and the opportunities that the United Methodist Church has given me. I started as a student pastor and retire as an ordained elder. I thank all the wonderful people who have helped make a lot of dreams come true during the 41 years of being at Allen Christ UMC.

Mike Slaughter wrote a study called “Dare to Dream.” The theme of the study is that creating a God-sized dream should be a mission statement for our lives. For those who love him, God has prepared things that no eye has seen, no ear has heard and that have never crossed the mind of any human being. God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Thanks to all who have been a part of my ministry, especially to my wife, Kay, who has been a partner in our journey with Christ.

ROBERT EUGENE SCHAEFFER

I was raised in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. My dad was the doctor for the Red Bird Mission Hospital, where I was born in 1949. I responded to God's call to ministry in 1972, and my home church at Beverly, KY, affirmed that calling upon my life. Upon graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1976, I married Janet Turner, who was from a Methodist family in St Petersburg, Florida; she had served as a volunteer with Red Bird Mission during the previous summer. I am grateful for her love and support for the past 39 years we have been in ministry together. I am also thankful for the opportunities I have had to serve churches in the Red Bird Missionary and Kentucky Conferences.

While a student pastor, I served Stoney Fork at Red Bird and was grateful for the love and patience this church had for a very young upstart in the ministry. Upon graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary, I served for two years as an associate pastor at Old Epworth in Lexington. I then returned to the Red Bird Missionary Conference and served the Thousandsticks/Dryhill Charge from 1978 to 1982; the Beech Creek/Greenbriar Charge from 1982 to 1984; and the Lothair/Combs Charge from 1984 to 1992. Through extension ministry, I then served from 1992 to 2009 as a chaplain with the Hospice of the Bluegrass in Lexington. I served at Monticello from 2009 to 2012 and at Jackson First from 2012 until my retirement at this year’s annual conference. God has been faithful in enabling me to carry out his calling on my life and has blessed my wife and me with our son, Derek, now 30 years old and living in San Diego.

We plan to retire to Berea, KY, to be near my dad, who is now 97 years old. We plan to continue to serve our Lord in the retirement relationship with the Kentucky Annual Conference and become involved with the life and mission of Berea United Methodist Church, as well as with other opportunities for ministry in the world. Having learned many handyman skills, while serving the smaller churches in Kentucky, I hope to become involved with Habitat for Humanity in the Madison County area and serve as our Lord Jesus gives opportunity. I hope that a fishing pole and some golf clubs will also be a part of my retirement years. Thank you, Kentucky Conference, for giving me the opportunity to serve God’s people in Kentucky for the past 43 years.
CLIFFORD P. SPARKS

I was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was raised in North Merrick, a community on the south shore of Long Island. I felt God’s call upon my life as an early adolescent. When it was time to go to college to pursue that call, the minister at my home church recommended Kentucky Wesleyan College. So, because of that recommendation, I applied, was accepted and came to Kentucky. It was the best thing I have ever done, for while at Kentucky Wesleyan, I met Betty Allen Henry and we later married during my last semester at Wesley Theological Seminary.

In looking back over the course of my ministry, it seems like it was just a short time ago that I stood before an Annual Conference session and answered the historic questions by which all United Methodist ministers are examined, but it has actually been 41 years. During these years, I have had the privilege to serve the conference as a member, and later as the chairperson, of the Commission on Archives and History; a member of the Council on Finance and Administration; and as conference secretary. To the people of the churches which I have had the honor and privilege of serving through the years, I want to say thank you for all the support and love you showed my family and me while we were your parsonage family.

Even with all the love and support shown to me through the years, what has made the traveling of these years so much better is having Betty Allen with me along the way. Therefore, Betty Allen and I are excited and are looking forward to starting a new phase of life and ministry. However, this step also brings with it a little sadness, for with my retirement, 170 years of active ministry in the conference, by members of Betty Allen’s family, will come to an end.

God is good, and I feel very fortunate that I have been used as one of His servants.

WILLIAM BARTLEY TAYLOR

I am a United Methodist by choice. I began ministry at God’s bidding in August of 1965, as a Southern Baptist. God called a green country boy off the farm to an unimaginable journey. As I responded to God’s call, I told God, “You called me in my ignorance. If you will make the way, I will do the work in school.” God did make the way. I enrolled in a Bible college that fall and, in the spring of 1966, I was called to serve Bethany Baptist Church in Graves County, KY. On May 15, 1966, at the Farmington Baptist Church in Farmington, KY, I was set apart for gospel ministry. In that service, my father, Bartley Taylor, gave me the charge, “Go preach the Word, in season and out of season, making disciples of Jesus Christ, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them the things of Christ.” I have tried to follow that charge since that day.

A part of that incredible journey is how a kid, who was told that he didn’t have what it took, got a college education. As I followed God’s call in 1967, I enrolled in Campbellsville College to begin the process of fulfilling my part of the bargain I had made with God. I received my B.S. in 1970. In January of 1973, I enrolled in Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, and received my M.Div. in 1976. I returned to Southeastern in 1981 as a part of their D.Min. program and was awarded that degree in 1984. My journey with God has led me to minister in Christ’s name across Kentucky. As a Southern Baptist, I served Kentucky congregations in Albany, Murray, Manitou, Donaldson Creek, Bethany. In the mountains of East Tennessee, I served at Sunbright, on the Coastal Plain of North Carolina at Middlesex, as well as on the Piedmont Plateau in North Carolina at Bethel Hill. As a United Methodist pastor, I served in Kentucky at Herndon, Lafayette, Chestnut Oak, Glenn’s Chapel, St. Andrew (Campbellsville), and Hilldale (Lewisport). I have lost track of the number of persons with whom I had the privilege of sharing Christ and leading them to a personal relationship with the Savior, as well as the number of those whom I have baptized, and the lives I have been privileged to touch, many of them through the Walk to Emmaus movement. I am overwhelmed as I reflect on what God had in store for that country boy and what God was able to do with him.

I have served God among United Methodists for the past 15 years, after serving 35 years as a pastor/preacher among Southern Baptists. As I sought to follow God’s call, I came to realize, through my experience on a Walk to Emmaus, that I belonged among United Methodists. When the dust settled and I was ordained as a full elder by Bishop James King at the 2004 Annual Conference, the only question I had was, “What took me so blooming long?” I really and truly had finally come home.

God has blessed me beyond what I could ever think or imagine. In my faith journey, God placed me in heavenly places and has allowed me to walk alongside some of the most wonderful and delightful sons and daughters of God. My greatest joy is in those who have joined me in the walk with Christ, those with whom I was given the privilege to share Christ, and those with whom I shall have the marvelous pleasure of spending eternity in that place we call heaven. Thank you, United Methodist Church, for taking me in and allowing me to find my spiritual home.
PAUL DAVID WARNER

My wife, Aileen Boyles Warner, and I will be celebrating 48 years of marriage on July 6. During our marriage, we have been blessed with two daughters, Kim and Amy. They have, in turn, blessed us with four grandchildren: Reese, Heath, Colin, and Harold.

Born and raised in South Shore, KY, I graduated from Mckell High School on May 19, 1967; from Asbury College on May 31, 1971; and from Lexington Theological Seminary in June of 1979. After graduation from Asbury College, I was licensed to begin preaching on March 20, 1972. I was ordained a deacon on June 8, 1977, followed by my ordination as an elder on June 5, 1980.


During my ministry, this passage has become a favorite: “And David said to Solomon his son, ‘Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.’” – 1 Chronicles 28:20 (KJV).
PRELUDE

St. James UMC African Choir

WORSHIP INTRO

Video Greeting from the Williams

LITANY AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Shea James

(Adapted from “A Litany in Response to UMCOR’s Call to Pray for Those Affected by the Ebola Epidemic” by The Rev. Frederick Yebuaha, native of Ghana, West Africa. Yebuaha is a clergy member of the South Carolina Annual Conference, currently serving as the Orangeburg District Superintendent.)

If we had a thousand tongues, O God, we would not be able to praise you enough for the gift of your handiwork. When nothing existed but chaos and a formless void, your breath brought forth light and life. Then you breathed your spirit into us, and you fashioned humankind to reflect your very image. Your hands made, and continue to make, beautiful things from dust.

Lord, we give you thanks.

Gracious God, we also recognize that, because of our carelessness, your world now groans with labor pains; creation bears the scars of destruction, and many suffer. Therefore, you have called us to uncover our eyes in order to see the world’s needs, to include our ears to hear the world’s cries, and to open our mouths to speak life where there is death.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Today, O God, we especially lift up to you our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone – for all those who live with the threat of the Ebola virus. Gracious God, we call you the Great Physician. We pray your healing power to touch those bodies that now shake with fever, ache with pain, and are too weak to sustain the demands of life.

God of life and love everlasting, hear our cries for mercy.

We also pray for the people of Belize and for the mission of sharing your good news with these beautiful people.

God of life and love everlasting, hear our cries for mercy.

Gracious God, we know you are a mighty god. Grant access to medical care for the most vulnerable. Protect doctors and nurses who kneel at the bedsides of the sick and the dying. Provide resources in places of lack. Guide churches and church leaders. Empower all who work tirelessly to be Christ’s hands and feet.

God of life and love everlasting, hear our cries for mercy.

We believe you are hope to the hopeless. Hold parents who’ve lost children. Gently father and mother children whose parents have died. Make your presence known to those who are in need of your tender touch. Give strength to our brothers and sisters who feel that “life more abundantly” is an unfulfilled promise.

God of life and love everlasting, hear our cries for mercy.
Gracious God, we know you are the light overcoming darkness. Why should we be afraid? Help us, O God, to trust in your unchanging nature in times of uncertainty. Grant us peace that for you anything is possible and that we, by the leading of your Spirit, can truly be agents of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We ask that you hear this our prayer and our desire.

Amen.

MUSIC AND CELEBRATION

Cover the Earth
This is Amazing Grace
Hosanna - Praise is Rising

PRAYER
Rev. Marco A. Ballesteros

OFFERING AND PRAYER
Cornerstone
Bishop Lindsey Davis

SCRIPTURE READING
John 14:8-14

VIDEO - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF UMCOR

SERMON
Celebrate Your Call to Mission
Rev. Denise Honeycutt
Deputy General Secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

REFLECTION
Heart of God

CALL TO MISSION IN MINISTRY
10,000 Reasons
Bishop Lindsey Davis

BENEDICTION
Bishop Lindsey Davis

Musicians: Bowling Green Worship Team
Jeremy Vincent
Louis Tagliaboschi
Josh Wicker
Martha Christian
Christ Centered Connection.
Christ Centered Communities.
Christ Centered World.