

LEGACIES

SPRING 2022

Foundation's Bishops' Club Luncheon Back with New Venue and Purpose

Our Bishops' Club will gather for its annual luncheon on Friday, May 13, which is remarkable. First, like every other yearly gathering, this event was postponed and canceled multiple times over the past two years. Members of the Bishops' Club are friends of the Foundation, so we have missed seeing our friends in person and look forward to the fellowship! It's also remarkable because we will gather in a new location and season. This year's luncheon will be at Highland Valley United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Traditionally, our luncheon was held in the fall when our minds were drawn toward gratitude. With Thanksgiving before us, we gathered with friends to show appreciation for their support of the ministry of the Foundation. This spring, we remain grateful as we turn our attention to new life and new creative possibilities. God does life-giving and life-changing work through the ministries of the Foundation. To hear one way the Foundation is making a difference in Arkansas

Methodism, we are excited to welcome this year's guest speaker Mr. Ellis Arnold, President of Hendrix College. Arnold is a faithful Methodist who has been leading the college since 2019.



Mr. Ellis Arnold,
President of Hendrix College

Members of the Bishops' Club have always helped us accomplish our mission of strengthening Methodist ministries in Arkansas. Members make an annual gift of \$1,000 or a one-time gift of \$15,000 to become Lifetime Members.

In the past, Bishops' Club funds supported the Foundation's daily operations. Today, the funds still help us accomplish our mission by giving directly back to ministries around the state. Since 2021, 100% of the money raised goes to our thriving grants ministry which seeks to alleviate poverty, homelessness, hunger, and enhance relationships between diverse communities. The grants also support clergy and lay leadership,

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Financial Literacy Clergy Cohorts Met in Little Rock to Conclude Training



It was an honor to host clergy from around the state as we concluded our Financial Literacy cohorts focused on stewardship and personal finance. Rev. Matt Miofsky, the lead pastor of The Gathering United Methodist Church in Saint Louis, MO, led this final session at the Foundation office in Little Rock.

Clergy members pictured left to right: (Top Row) Mark Cloninger, Sara Bayles Charlton, Annie Lankford, Dan Read, Speaker Matt Miofsky, Matt Carter, Walt Garrett, Michelle Morris, Cleifton Vaughan, Taylor Loy, Jana Green, Chase Green, Kenny Lee, Dane Womack, and Dee Harper. (Bottom Row) Doug Phillips, Nathan Kilbourne, Kathleen McMurray, Susan Ledbetter, Lupita Chavarria, MFA President & CEO Wayne Clark, Corey Read, Lauren DeLano, Claire Caldwell, Heather Clawitter, Andrea Cummings, Herschel Richardson, Heather Sprinkle, Brad Moore, and MFA Director of Leadership Ministries Mackey Yokem.

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Rev. J. Wayne Clark
President & CEO

A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

What Inspires You?

At the end of the national news, there will often be a 'feel-good' story. Frequently stories are about the underdog coming out on top, an outstanding human achievement from the unexpected, or something so touching that it brings chills to the bones or a tear to the eye. I love these stories and often think it is the best part. Sometimes I wish the news would devote 30 minutes of television to these stories. These inspire me, motivate me, and make me realize that there is a lot of good in the world.

I also love hearing stories of how people overcome so many obstacles to live fulfilling lives by doing so much good for the world. Or stories of how someone changes their way of thinking about a group of people because they met someone very different from them and realized that person (and the group they represent) is not what they had thought or believed. Whatever prejudices or judgments they had begun to dissipate. Phrases like "those people" and "they always" start to leave their vocabulary.

I am also inspired when I hear why people do things for others. It might be giving money, sharing a meal, or offering an embrace, especially when that person has little resources. The Widow's Mite story from Luke 21: 1-4 is a great example, but there are undoubtedly modern-day stories. You may have been that 'widow' or the recipient of the 'widows' extravagant generosity. The stories of people who give millions of dollars away often make the news, but the stories of the shoe shiner with very little giving \$100,000 to a children's hospital often fail to make the 'big news' and end up in the last 30 seconds of the news.

What inspires you? What motivates you to do good in the world and for others? You don't have to alleviate poverty or rid the oceans of trash. Maybe you bake a cake for a neighbor who lost a loved one. Have you made a transformative gift? Not necessarily the amount, but one that you know was life-changing for someone? You don't really know the neighbor or may have disagreements, but you show that extravagant generosity and take the cake anyway.

So, bake the cake. Write the note. Find ways to share your gifts, and continue to find ways the tremendous Biblical stories and "end-of-the-news-feel-good stories" can inspire you to do even more.

BLESSINGS,
Wayne



Amy Anderson
Northwest Arkansas
Development Officer

Goshen UMC Food Pantry

Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting the Goshen UMC Food Pantry. With a population of a little over 2100, Goshen is a lovely town just northeast of Fayetteville. This town, particularly its Methodist Church, holds a special place in my heart. Back in the day, Goshen UMC and Trinity UMC Fayetteville (my home church growing up) shared a pastor, and our choir led worship at Goshen. I have fond memories of singing there and was thrilled when Neil Carey, manager of the food pantry at Goshen, invited me to see their operation in action. And, they have quite the operation!

Since the establishment of the Food Pantry in December 2019, the amount of food they distribute has increased significantly. The comparison between February 2021 and February 2022 is quite astonishing. The number of households served more than doubled, and the number of individuals who received food increased by 142%! "We have experienced great growth due to the grant provided by The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas," Carey said.

In addition to receiving items from the NW Arkansas Food Bank, their local Walmart Neighborhood Market, and the Fayetteville Sam's Club, Goshen UMC is also a USDA distribution pantry for eastern Washington and Madison counties. Volunteers distribute food boxes on Tuesdays, and on the day that I was there, they allocated 171 boxes to 151 families, feeding 432 people! They have a drive-through operation where people pull up, receive their food, and have the opportunity to select other specialty items as available, including magazines, pet food, K-cups, and cakes when I was there. I witnessed a family drive up in a van with the mom holding her toddler in her lap. Her eyes lit up when she saw blue frosted cupcakes available. The toddler clapped wildly when the volunteer passed those cupcakes through the van window. These cupcakes were definitely a special treat for this young family.

Under Neil's leadership, numerous volunteers, and the support of Rev. Rex Dickey, the Goshen UMC food pantry continues to impact their small community by distributing over 800,000 pounds of food each year.

The Foundation is proud of its grant program supporting worthy organizations across Arkansas. Our new column, **Out and About with Amy**, highlights grant recipients and the great work they are doing in their community.



Pictured: Goshen UMC Food Pantry volunteers work together to feed over 400 people during their weekly food distributions. Middle left: Goshen UMC Pastor Rex Dickey.



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Long-Term Gains Focus of 1Q Returns

Recent investment returns reflect the general volatility in the markets. As long-term investors, we recognize that no investment manager will outperform established benchmarks in every period, but we are thankful that our returns have compared very favorably with the benchmarks over all long-term periods. Through Wespath Institutional Investments, we employ a strategic investment strategy and do not overreact to short-term fluctuations in the markets. As of March 31, 2022, the Foundation's assets topped \$225.8 million.

Investment Pool	\$ (millions)	1 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 3 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 5 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>	Avg. 10 Year Return <i>Benchmark</i>
Blended Pool	\$144.5	-1.2% 2.5%	9.5% 8.6%	8.6% 7.3%	7.7% 7.0%
Growth Pool	\$51.0	1.0% 3.6%	14.2% 12.4%	12.5% 11.0%	11.2% 9.7%
Income Pool	\$11.8	-0.1% -1.2%	5.0% 5.4%	3.9% 3.8%	3.3% 3.3%

Data from Wespath Institutional Investments closing March 31, 2022.

Bishops' Club continued from front cover

college and seminary student support, and church-related and/or nonprofit organizations that foster relationships with our church neighbors.

We are proud of our partnerships with local churches and with Methodist institutions. The Bishops' Club is our most extraordinary partner. This group of friends invests in our work and shares our story with others. Are you interested in joining the Bishops' Club? We would love for you to join us for this year's luncheon! Contact Rev. Lynn Kilbourne to join at LKilbourne@methodistfoundationAR.org or 501-664-8632.

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