Young Servant competes in TV show
BY CHRIS SCHUTZ

A marching band, color guard, cheerleaders, and an excited crowd set the scene June 28 in the parking lot of OKC-Church of the Servant for a “homecoming” video featuring young ventriloquist Darci Lynne Farmer.

Darci and the video will be featured in this season’s first live episode of NBC’s “America’s Got Talent,” scheduled in Hollywood, Calif., on Aug. 15. Her experience in the competition will give the Oklahoma seventh-grader lots of material in case her teacher wants a “What I did this summer” essay.

Darci, 12, impressed the judges enough with her audition this spring that they showered her and her puppet Petunia with golden confetti. The “Golden Buzzer” award by judge Mel B allowed her to bypass part of the audition process and advance directly to the Aug. 15 show.

Church of the Servant became part of the process by hosting an abbreviated parade and a performance by Darci for the TV show’s video production crew — complete with spectators, part of the Norman High School marching band, and Deer Creek High School cheerleaders and color guard members. Darci perched like a homecoming queen on the back of a 1960 Corvette convertible.

SEE VENTRILOQUIST, PAGE 3
SEE ENID, PAGE 6

Reading project makes Enid debut
BY ROBERT BARRON

“...If you teach a child to read, you open the world,” said Randy Mitchell, senior pastor of Enid-First United Methodist Church, where Project Transformation is helping Enid youngsters to improve their reading skills this summer.

For 16 summers, Project Transformation has been assisting first- through fifth-grade readers in several Oklahoma cities.

But this is the first time the United Methodist-related literacy day camp has been in Enid. The June-July program in Oklahoma has always operated as a ministry of the Conference.

“The Church cares for the children in the community whether they are Methodists or not. This helps them to succeed in life,” said Kara Klamm, site supervisor.

She teaches second grade at Hayes Elementary in Enid. Her experience with Project Transformation includes leadership in the program for two years at Mangum.

The primary purpose is to assist kids with reading problems, she said. Each child is tested to determine a reading level at the beginning of the summer, and PT’s goal is to maintain or exceed that level when the project concludes at the end of July.

Eligible students are those who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year, or who attend a school in which 50 percent of students meet that criterion.

Klamm also said some schools were targeted because of...
**Sentenced to death?**

**BY BISHOP JIMMY NUNN**

“Three sentences that can basically destroy you” was the title. The article continued, “When these utterances start to become commonplace around the office, it just might be the beginning of the end.” The story originally appeared in *Inc. Magazine* and was reprinted in *Time* in 2014.

The article presented three sentences about organizations that may indicate “you may be heading down a dead-end path.”

Reading the article, I asked myself if I had heard those sentences in church.

- The second sentence of destruction: “But that can’t be true!” Churches sometimes have a hard time defining or accepting reality. We have a tendency toward “confirmation bias.” Simply put, confirmation bias exists when we see what we want to see. And what we want to see blinds us to what is there. Confirmation bias blocks our ability to adjust, because we hold on to the view we want.
- The third sentence of destruction: “We’ll make it happen...somehow.”

That sentence betrays an unwillingness to make difficult choices and attempts to make everyone happy. It is a strength to be positive about things. But mere wishful thinking will reap destruction. It can drag the church through the darkness of high hopes based on a false view of reality.

The third sentence of destruction: “We’ve always done it that way.”

I love the analysis in the article about this sentence. “Clinging to what’s ‘tried and true’ leads to pursuing wooden-headed strategies long after it’s clear that those strategies aren’t working.”

- Since I first discovered the article a few years ago, I’ve detected a fourth sentence that can also destroy. It says: “We are already doing it.”

That sentence betrays an unwillingness to examine what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how we are doing it. It assumes that we have the right answers within ourselves and need no outside perspective.

These four sentences can basically destroy a church when they become commonplace.

How does our faith tradition respond? Contrast those four sentences with one that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: “This saying is reliable and deserves full acceptance: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I’m the biggest sinner of all.” (1 Timothy 1:15, CEV)

Paul’s sentence frames our missional perspective and mutes the destructive sentences. The missional perspective moves us from sentences that can “basically destroy” and ponders things that point to life.

Also in his letter, Paul wrote, “The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Because they missed this goal, some people have been distracted by talk that doesn’t mean anything.” (1 Timothy 1:5-6, CEV)

Sometimes in our haste to fix things around us, we say destructive things. But the scriptures point us to the things of life.

What we hear and speak matters. Replace sentences that can “basically destroy” with words that bring hope and life.

What are we hearing? What are we saying?

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**OCU names 3 new Bishop Scholars**

The Wimberly School of Religion at Oklahoma City University has announced the 2017 recipients of the Bishop Scholars Award: Addison Saviers, Rebecca Small, and MacKenzie VanZee.

The prestigious full-tuition scholarship is awarded each year to up to three incoming freshman religion majors. Each candidate must apply, receive endorsements from the pastor and a lay member of his or her church, and undergo an interview with the School of Religion faculty. Competition for the award is steep, and only the strongest candidates are selected to receive the award to attend Oklahoma’s only United Methodist university.

**Addison Saviers**

Addison is a graduate of Sapulpa High School, a lifelong United Methodist and an active member of Tulsa-Boston Avenue UMC. A member of the Boston Avenue Choir and a regular volunteer for VBS and other church activities, she also has been a leader in her youth group and at the district and Conference levels. In addition to her strong upbringing in the church by her mother, a Christian educator who has served on numerous church staffs, and by her grandfather, who is a retired UM minister, Addison also credits the Tulsa Interfaith Tour as shaping her calling to ministry. She plans to study Religion and Philosophy with a minor in Interfaith Studies and to go on to a career as a religious educator promoting understanding about religious and cultural differences.

**Rebecca Small**

Rebecca is from Lorena, Texas, a suburb of Waco, and is a member of Woodway First UMC, where she is an active leader among her peers and in small groups. She graduated fifth in her class from Lorena High School, where she also served in many leadership roles. As a participant in numerous mission trips throughout her teen years, Rebecca experienced her calling to ministry while on mission in Moore, Oklahoma, in 2015. She also has a passion for performance, and as she began to explore those two callings together she discovered that Oklahoma City University was the natural choice for college. She plans to study youth ministry with the goal of helping young people find fresh expressions of their faith through theater.

**MacKenzie VanZee**

MacKenzie is a graduate of Jenks High School and a lifelong member of Tulsa-Faith UMC, where she has been active in the youth program and as a volunteer with children’s ministry for the last four years.

MacKenzie first received her calling to ministry while at church camp the summer before her freshman year of high school. The experience drew her more deeply into the life of the church and, following a mission trip to Chicago in 2016, MacKenzie came to fully embrace her calling.

She plans to remain open to the path that God has for her as she continues to discern her calling as a religion major at OCU.
Day Camp aims to grow

BY SHARI GOODWIN

“U”ltimate Frisbee is my favorite, and I don’t know how many friends I made — a lot!” said young camper Ava Coefel. “The big kids are nice — really open to making new friends.”

Zane Trisler agreed. “I didn’t know but a few people here when I came, but I’ve made I don’t know how many friends. My favorite thing to do is the water slide!”

Ava and Zane are just two of 30 elementary-age campers who enjoyed the recent Mobile Day Camp held in Tulsa.

The children met at West Tulsa United Methodist Church to explore Bible stories and enjoy water toys, archery, tie-dying, and crafts during the five-day experience. Partnering with West Tulsa UMC were Tulsa-First and Tulsa-Grace.

“The camps have all gone really well,” said Neil Tate, who is the Conference Camps program director. “I’ve been pleasantly surprised. The kids have all had a really good time. We’ve had tears on Fridays at each of the camps because they don’t want it to end.”

New to the Camps’ summer lineup, Mobile Day Camps are providing great opportunities for children in eight cities to experience socioeconomic and racial diversity as they learn and play happily together. Friday afternoons include a closing family event so that parents and siblings can watch the children, then join in on songs and ice cream treats.

“I really like the counselors,” Ava smiled. “They always make things fun. You get what you need, and it’s lots of fun. I’d like to be a counselor someday.”

“Voyage” is the Mobile Day Camps’ theme. Tate and eight young adults who trained for the specialized program have traveled across the state, pulling their supplies and inflatables in a large trailer and leading the camp in a different place each week.

All agree they have enjoyed the travel and the opportunity to stay in host homes.

In Tulsa they stayed with members of a Sunday School class from First United Methodist. Their hosts went out of their way to graciously meet their needs, the team said.

“The camps each have a little different personality, depending on the setting, but there’s more they have in common,” assistant leader Dosanna Miller said. “The kids are all so excited to be here — and sad to leave. They’re very energetic, too!”

“I’ve been impressed by how knowledgeable these kids in Tulsa have been. They really know their Bible stories.”

The program is proving so successful that plans already have begun for next summer’s Mobile Day Camps. Halfway through this summer’s schedule, 200 children have participated, according to Camps officials.

“Voyage” began in Ada and concludes in Oklahoma City. Along the way, camps have been held in Heavener, Blackwell, Duncan, and more. One person described the program as “VBS on steroids.”

If your church is interested in hosting such a camp, contact Tate at ntate@okumc.org. He will be happy to share more information and answer questions.

Ventriloquist:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“My church just rallied and just really helped a lot,” said her mother, Misty Farmer. “I’m overwhelmed with humbleness to our church.”

United Methodist Church of the Servant has been the Farmers’ church home for 22 years. Misty is in the choir, and Darci sometimes joins her mother there.

The church had less than a week’s notice that the video crew was coming, Misty said.

Church members made posters for people to hold up during the parade and gave out trays of cookies.

Then Darci posed patiently for photos with some of the hundreds of people who came to the event.

In the crowd was 9-year-old Bailey West, who had watched Darci audition on TV. “I kinda cried a little,” said the youngster.

After the photo session, it was time to move into the church’s Centrum, an auditorium with a capacity of almost 400, to see Darci and her puppet perform.

It was standing room only for the program, which included Mayor Mick Cornett with a proclamation declaring June 28 as “Darci Lynne Farmer Day” in Oklahoma City.

The highlight was Darci — or was it Petunia? — belting out the song “Summertime” from the opera “Porgy and Bess.”

Ventriloquism is something Darci taught herself, Misty said.

The pre-teen has been singing since age 6.

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Ventriloquism is something Darci taught herself, Misty said.

The pre-teen has been singing since age 6.

“I knew she had just a natural ear for singing. It’s a God-given talent, a natural thing that she has.”

She’s impressed with how her daughter is dealing with the demands of being on the top-rated TV show.

At the end of parade day, the girl was tired, but “she’s handling everything very well,” Misty said. At age 12, “she doesn’t really understand everything that’s happening to her.”

Darci’s hopes for the future are varied, according to her mother.

She wants to have her own show and perform on Broadway. Then she wants to find time to be a veterinarian.

Right after the Aug. 15 episode, school will resume for her at Deer Creek. If Darci continues to advance in the live-voting rounds of “America’s Got Talent,” she will have to juggle academics with her Hollywood opportunity.

Above: A child is triumphant upon splashdown in an outdoor inflatable during Mobile Day Camp at West Tulsa UMC. Below: A craft project absorbs children and their young-adult leader.
South Korea trip changes 5 pastors

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) recently gathered a group of U.S. pastors in South Korea to expand the diversity work of the agency.

During the seven-day trip, HiRho Park of GBHEM traveled with four African-American pastors and an Asian-American pastor who serve in large churches with predominantly white memberships.

They made this journey to share best practices and experiences in diversity and inclusion with students and faculty of YeonSei Theological School and the Global Institute of Theology.

The trip also served as an opportunity for exposure to African-Americans and their perspectives beyond typical images seen on TV and movies in South Korea.

Albert Shuler of New Creation UMC, Durham, N.C., advised the attendees that respect is always first and foremost in embracing multiculturalism.

“I was moved by the passion, zeal, and love for Jesus that we saw,” he said.

“We were told tithing averages around 30 percent. The churches were exploding with people — one service had more than 1,500 people and another 150 in the choir.”

The group was also invited to visit with the president of Hurree University in Mongolia. Because of GBHEM’s and Discipleship Ministries’ e-Reader Project, the university has been gifted with e-readers for its faculty.

The pastors visited South Korea a few days before Buddha’s birthday and saw the ornate decorations around the country commemorating the holiday.

Dr. Park formed a network of racial-ethnic lead pastors serving large predominantly white churches in 2012.

Fewer than 20 racial-ethnic clergy serve in this capacity in the U.S.

— GBHEM Communications

Lawton church invites neighbors to picnic

In Lawton, Centenary United Methodist Church celebrated the success of two summertime neighborhood missions with a grand community picnic June 23.

Held in Union Park, the free picnic included a hot dog cookout with much of the food donated, a concert in the bandstand by the Centenary Connect Band, and special visit by the Patriot Guard Bikers on their motorcycles.

The park and Lincoln Elementary School are both part of Centenary’s neighborhood.

The church’s Lincoln Summer Enrichment Program targeted second- and third-graders. Centenary received a $1,000 grant from Lawton Public Library. About 25 church volunteers plus the new principal and some teachers at Lincoln worked with the students.

An animal rehabilitation expert, a string-art performer, a working cowboy, a dedicated musician, and two computer teachers were important in the leadership as the students received help in three areas: reading, enrichment, and computer learning.

The second program was Centenary’s Vacation Bible School, with a “Heroes” theme. VBS attendance doubled over 2016, thanks in part to intentionally reaching out to Lincoln students.

Sarah Riddle, the church’s Mission Team chairperson, said the “super heroes” of Centenary dedicated countless hours to create and present the “powerful outreach projects.”

Scampering kids collect balloons during a Union Park summer picnic sponsored by Lawton-Centenary UMC.
Deaconess/home missioner:
Option for ministry by laity

BY HOLLY MCCRAY

When people, especially young adults, ask what the Church is doing in the world today, Elaine Robinson can provide an excellent answer. She points to a little-known but far-reaching form of ministry by laywomen and laymen in full-time vocations of mission-oriented service.

About 30 deaconesses and home missioner candidates — women and men, respectively — from across the country just spent two weeks in Oklahoma City, studying and discerning this call by God upon their lives. The event was directed by Professor Robinson of Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University.

“They are all ministers, and I take that seriously. What is your ministry? It can’t just be ‘I sit in the pew on Sunday’,” she said.

She explained that United Methodist deaconesses and home missionaries work with the homeless and with children, care for the environment, and lead nonprofits. They may be firefighters, health care workers, or educators.

They are laity; their calling is not to ministry within church structures such as worship and Sunday School, not to administer the sacraments of the Church.

“They really have this passion for ministry in the world. It really is love, justice, and service” in arenas outside church walls, she said.

“It’s something the denomination should make especially younger people aware of. It is a program that can grow over time because it does what the younger people are saying the church doesn’t do.”

This is a way to draw young people “to see the church as vibrant.”

Deaconesses and home missionaries are approved through a process established by United Methodist Women. Requirements include professional vocational training or certification as well as foundational study of the Bible, mission theology, and United Methodist history and policies.

The national leadership wanted to partner with a United Methodist seminary for the spiritual education aspect. That’s where Saint Paul at OCU, with Robinson agreeing to be the program’s dean, entered the picture.

Social justice is central to the deaconess and home missioner covenant community, and the Oklahoma and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conferences “are so vibrant in mission beyond the local church,” Robinson said.

“No new annual conference has that.”

She pointed out Oklahoma churches’ witness in Native American ministries, criminal justice work such as CJAMM, serving the poor such as through Skyline Urban Ministry, and caring for creation in places such as Turtle Rock Farm.

Candidates from across the country can stay at the OCU dorms in the summer and easily connect to those missions and more, she said.

After they are certified, these laity are consecrated and commissioned by a bishop. Their relationship to the Church continues through the national UMW office. A wide network of United Methodists supports them, including Linda Mutterspaugh, a retired clergy deacon in Oklahoma.

The deaconesses and home missionaries whom Robinson knows “are really eager and energized, excited,” she said.

“It’s all, for me, about building the reign of God on earth and finding new ways and new venues for people to do their ministries in the world and to connect beyond the church, as Christ would ask us to do. We are connectional, and the more connections we make, the more ministry gets done.”

COSROW awards funding

The deadline is nearing to apply for scholarships awarded annually by the Conference’s Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) to women pursuing education as clergy.

Applications are due Sept. 1.

These funds can help women attend training and other educational opportunities, in addition to seminary. About 30 deaconesses and home missioner candidates — women and men, respectively — from across the country just spent two weeks in Oklahoma City, studying and discerning this call by God upon their lives. The event was directed by Professor Robinson of Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University.

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These funds can help women attend training and other educational opportunities, in addition to seminary. According to Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, COSROW chairperson, the commission supported Jennifer Long and Leslie Long to attend the International Clergywomen’s Gathering in Houston.

Last year’s seminary recipients were: Laura Glover, who is pastoring at Ripley and Perkins; campus minister Shana Dry of the Wesley Foundation, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah; and Colleen Runty, pastor at Bartlesville-Oak Park.

Find the application form by searching “COSROW” at www.okumc.org/forms.

OCU donor establishes Business Fellows Program

Herman Meinders has made a multi-million dollar commitment to Oklahoma City University’s Meinders School of Business to fund a unique Business Leadership Fellows Program.

Commencing in Fall 2018, a student accepted to the program will receive a full-tuition scholarship for up to four years, combined with innovative learning and leadership development opportunities.

The scholarships will support up to 18 students per year.

An OCU alumnus, Meinders said he established the program to help recruit exceptionally high-quality students in business and leadership.

The OCU Meinders School of Business was founded in the 1980s. Meinders has continued to be a major supporter. He founded American Floral Services in Oklahoma City in 1970; it merged with Teleflora in 2000.

Update your officer information

When church officers report they didn’t receive vital information from the Conference or districts, that almost always is due to incorrect or missing contact information for those officers — especially email addresses — in the Conference’s database, according to Treasurer Norma Quinn.

“Our main way of sharing information to the laity of the Conference is through email communication,” she wrote recently in Treasury Notes.

“We need your help, pastors, membership secretaries, or whomever else may be responsible for updating the local church leadership. Please review your leadership’s information at least once or twice a year to see if there are any changes that need to be made.”

She thanked those who help make the Brick River data system as accurate as possible.

NSO dental program gets $40,000 grant

Neighborhood Services Organization was awarded an iFund Access to Health Care Grant for $40,000 that will go to the United Methodist-related agency’s Dental Outreach Program.

The check presentation was made June 26 in Oklahoma City.

Through free dental screenings, preventive procedures, and grassroots outreach, NSO’s dental hygienists saw over 10,000 individuals in 2016. That number includes over 4,500 public school students.

Briefly

Covenant community gathers at Canyon

A retreat at Canyon Camp recently brought together members of the deaconess/home missioner/cohominary covenant community of the South Central Jurisdiction.

Laywomen and laaymen in specialized ministries make up this community.

The Oklahoma Conference hosted the event May 19-21, attended by eight deaconesses from Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma. Among guests was Conference Lay Leader Chuck Stewart.

The community members shared their “call stories” and stories of how they have helped lead others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

The time was largely unstructured, enabling them to build connections with one another. Meals, devotions, Holy Yoga, and prayer bead making were the only scheduled activities.

They hope such a gathering can become a biennial event in the jurisdiction. Convocations also are held, drawing community members from across the nation.

Deaconesses at the retreat were Melissa Calvillo from Kansas; Mandy Caruso-Yahne, Missouri; Omega Ramos and Kathy Kraiza, Texas; and Melanie Dewey, Jerrie Lindsey, Elaine Parrent, and Sandy Wickberg, all from Oklahoma.

Funding and other resources to support the event were provided by a number of Conference entities and the jurisdiction.

From left are deaconesses Sandy Wickberg, Jerrie Lindsey, Mandy Caruso-Yahne, Melanie Dewey, and Kathy Kraiza, beside the cross at Canyon Camp.

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As an Oklahoma United Methodist mission with a history of 100 years of meeting the needs of children in need, the Circle of Care seeks to assure its legacy of caring.

And so the Circle of Care offers its deepest gratitude to the many churches, small and large, from all across the state, for the gracious giving received through the Annual Conference Offering — almost $50,000 to date.

The Circle of Care has embarked on a $5 million capital campaign to fulfill its Legacy of Care. For this effort to begin with such an extraordinary response from the Oklahoma Conference, we say a special thank-you.

The funds will build five small foster care communities throughout the state, with eight new custom foster homes, with community centers/club houses. They also will serve as regional hubs for recruiting, training, and supporting foster families.

Learn more or make a gift at legacy.circleofcare.org, or call Sarah Steffes at 405-215-1400

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**Enid:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reading-level testing reports. In addition, the church utilizes a relationship with the foster parent group in Enid and recruits through social media.

Lower-income students are at the greatest risk, said Klamm.

“We read every day; we’re hoping to improve.”

Approximately 44 kids attend the classes daily, and they are led by seven trained young adults who serve through AmeriCorps, a major sponsor of the program. One of those AmeriCorps members is Jerrod Baker, who attended Wagoner UMC when Rev. Mitchell pastored there.

The church feeds the kids breakfast and lunch every day.

“The heart of the program is one-on-one reading with adult volunteers,” Mitchell said.

In the mornings, each student spends 30 minutes reading with a volunteer. In the afternoons they undergo a 30-minute program of reading comprehension, so they will understand what they are reading, Klamm said.

“It’s especially good for kids who hope to maintain their reading scores, or exceed them,” she said.

The project also includes instruction in math, science, art, and some recreation in the afternoon.

Recently, the kids were treated to a demonstration of the church’s grand pipe organ, taught by Thom Whitaker. They also have taken trips to Leonardo’s Children’s Museum.

The classes contributed to an increase in the number of kids taking part in the church’s Vacation Bible School, Mitchell said.

“We’ve met some really sweet parents and kids,” he said.

Project Transformation 2017 comes to a close this final week of July at nine locations through the state. About 55 young adults have given leadership to the program at those sites.

An adult volunteer and child share storytime during Project Transformation at Enid-First.
Discipleship Ministries is up to something. The top executive of that general church agency wants to be clear about what that something is.

And what it isn’t.

“See All the People is not a program,” said Junius Dotson. “It really is an attempt to spur and ignite and inspire the spirit and movement of disciple-making across our denomination.”

Recent weeks have seen the rollout of See All the People, including at Oklahoma’s Annual Conference, with a resource guide written by Rev. Dotson, a video, a website, and a social media program,” said Junius Dotson. “It’s about planting seeds, encouraging all local churches to come to us,” Dotson said. “It’s about planting seeds, building relationships … We can’t disciple people we’re not in relationship with.”

Discipleship Ministries doesn’t want to dictate anything with See All the People, he said. Rather, the agency wants to encourage conversation and an exchange of ideas among churches. — UMNS Daily Digest, June 28

CONCERT featuring disciples of Jesus Christ. and the denomination and, instead, that the Church should quit unconventional pitch; namely, a website, and a social media conference, with a resource guide including at Oklahoma’s Annual rollout of movement of disciple-making ignite and inspire the spirit and

“Now that is a why!” Dotson writes.

The initiative seeks to encourage all local churches to get leaders to see every task of the church through the lens of disciple-making.

“It’s not about waiting for people to come to us,” Dotson said. “It’s about planting seeds, building relationships … We can’t disciple people we’re not in relationship with.”

Discipleship Ministries doesn’t want to dictate anything with See All the People, he said. Rather, the agency wants to encourage conversation and an exchange of ideas among churches. — UMNS Daily Digest, June 28

COBB — Rev. Alvin Cobb, 97, of Edmond died July 15, 2017. His career began in 1940. He pastored at Dutton, Perkins, Wheatland, and Hydro and was a Veterans Administration chaplain. While on Honorable Location, he was a nursing home administrator and staff member at OKC-St. Luke’s.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy, daughter, Carol; and stepchildren Stephen, David, and Melissa.

Service was July 28 at St. Luke’s.

COMPTON — Rev. Ora Compton, 97, of Spencer died July 13, 2017. His career was from 1945 to 1990. He served OKC-McKee, Del City, Sunny Lane, Checotah/ Pierce, Tulsa-St. Luke’s, OKC-Christ, Pauls Valley, and Cleveland churches; he directed the Tulsa Council of Churches and the Community Relations Commission.

Survivors include children Reatha, Jerry, and Van Compton and Conna Wilkinson.

Service was July 20 at Church of the Open Arms, Oklahoma City.


He pastored at Ringwood, Hooker/Tyronie, Checotah, Sulphur, and Shattuck. He had been a chairman of the Conference Camps’ Board of Trustees.

Survivors include his wife, Trena; son Chris; and daughters Kyliegh Butler, Kelsey Buragarner, Katelyn Trobaugh, and Kayse Trobaugh.

Service was July 1 at Elk City UMC.

Memorial gifts to: Canyon Camp via online donation or in care of Martin Dugger Funeral Home, P.O. Box 707, Elk City, OK 73648.

POLSON — Rev. Marvin Martin Polson, 92, of Perkins, died June 25, 2017. His career was from 1952 to 1995.

In Oklahoma, he pastored at Stillwater, Dacona, Moore-Cathedral, Tecumseh-Earlboro, Texoma, Henryetta/Dustin, Wynnewood-First/Wynnewood-Reeds Chapel, OKC-Epworth, Buffalo, Orlando/Mulhall, Alva-Otterbein, and Eldorado. He also served in Texas.

He is survived by sons Skip and Pete Polson and daughters Sunny Isenhower, Lori Cornelisen, Jan Polson, and Hope Robertson.

There was a private family service.

Memorial gifts to: The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM), Oklahoma City.


Among survivors are sons Tom and Mike Lyons.

Service was July 24 at Edmond-First UMC. Memorial gifts to: Edmond-First’s Memorial Fund.

MILLER — Bonnie Miller, 89, of Enid died June 15, 2017. She was a diaconal minister, most recently serving at OKC-Nichols Hills.

Among survivors are a brother, Rev. Glenn Miller, retired. Service was June 23 at Epworth Villa in Oklahoma City.

LUTTRELL — J. Verlene Luttrell, 88, of Oklahoma City died June 23, 2017. She was the widow of Rev. Bill Luttrell, who died in 1998.

There were no services. Burial was in Bethany Cemetery.

Pianist: Crescent UMC. Part-time. Contact Jessica Maynard at umcmartinjessica@gmail.com or at 405-550-6464.

Office Administrator: OKC-Village. 30-35 hours per week. Send resume to Elaine Robinson, erobinson@villageomethodist.org

District Administrator: Oklahoma Conference. Full-time. For job location, call Norma Quinn, 405-530-2067. Cover letter and resume to nquinn@okumc.org

Pianist: Drumright UMC. Part-time. 918-352-2150 or drmrightumc@sbcglobal.net

Two part-time positions: Choctaw UMC. 1) Contemporary
Everyone wants to have a life with meaning. Part of that meaningful life is to live on in the memory of family and friends. A good estate plan can indeed create a legacy for family and charity that gives added meaning to your life.

But another part is to use property the Lord entrusts to your care to lift up those in need. Paul spoke to those in Corinth and said, “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.” (2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV)

Your estate is a wonderful opportunity to bless others in need with a portion of your lifetime “increase” in property.

**What good things happen with an updated will?**

With an updated will, you can transfer specific property or assets. In addition, you will be able to direct the residue of your estate. For those with larger estates, there could be substantial estate tax savings. In addition, you know that the executor or personal representative you select (not the one a probate judge chooses) will be managing your property. A good will is able to carry out your plan and save thousands of dollars while transferring property quickly and inexpensively to your loved ones.

**What is accidental disinherition?**

Too many times, the “wrong” person or persons end up receiving property. An “accidental disinherition” occurs if you either have no will or the will doesn’t function properly. Sometimes a will is unclear and the estate goes to distant relatives or is simply paid to CPAs and attorneys who are representing family members fighting over the estate. You can avoid an “accidental disinherition” by creating a good plan to protect your loved ones.

**How do I get started?**

We have designed the Planning Your Legacy guide for your benefit. Feel free to take the time to move through the different sections. You may, however, need to come back later and fill in more detailed information. Most of this information you will know or have readily available.

In addition to the explanations within our free guide, we have a wealth of online estate planning information on our website. Feel free to visit our website and learn about wills at www.okumf.org.

Contact David Battles at 800-259-6863 or send an email to dbattles@okumf.org to get a FREE COPY of the Planning Your Legacy guide.

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**Save the dates**

- Libera in Concert:
  (internationally renowned children’s chorus from London)
  Aug. 6 at Tulsa-Asbury UMC
  http://asburytulsa.org/event/978430-2017-08-06-libera-in-concert

- Single-Parent Family Camp:
  Aug. 11-13 at Camp Egan
  www.okumcministries.org/camps/specialty.htm

- Benefits Symposium:
  (especially for clergy younger than 50, but all are welcome)
  • Aug. 21 at OCU Sarkey building
  • Aug. 22 at Tulsa-Boston Avenue
  www.okumc.org/benefitsymposium

- New People New Places:
  Deadline Aug. 31
  for grant applications

- Labor Day on the Lake:
  Sept. 1-4 at Cross Point Camp
  Various lodging packages
  www.okcamps.org

- Orders Meeting:
  Sept. 19 at OKC-St. Luke’s

- United Methodist Women Annual Meeting:
  Oct. 6-7 at Tulsa-Boston Avenue