The following clergy and clergy spouses who have died in the past year were remembered during Monday afternoon’s worship service:

- Darlene Berckefeldt
- Joel A. Cooper
- Mary M. Douglas
- James C. “Jim” Foster
- Patrick “Pat” O. Henry
- Wadene Hilliard
- Era Lee Hillis
- Ruth Hilton
- Joseph Horton
- Lois Hunter
- Anna Kidwell
- Barton Lackey
- Shirley Lindsay
- Paul Lyons
- Loye Vern Mason
- Betty Moore
- Jerry Nipper
- Eva Paysinger
- Richard Preston
- Gerald Rainwater
- Melba Ramsay
- Ronald Robbins
- Cecilia Rogers
- Fred R. Smith
- Woody Smith
- Verna Stallcup
- Lucinda “Cindy” D. Starnes
- Virginia Faye Steele
- Dorothy Swain
- Lawrence O. Taylor
- Clifford Ray Tribble
- Maurice Webb
- Imo Jean Wilder
- James Robert Wilson
- Robert E. Woody

Arkansas’ delegation of eight to General Conference. The next four lay and clergy will join the first eight as delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. Four alternates, two lay and two clergy, also will be elected. A candidate must receive votes on more than 50 percent of valid ballots in a given round to be elected.

Called to prayer

Bishop Young Jin Cho of the Virginia Area opened Monday’s session of Annual Conference with a meditation on the process and power of prayer. Cho urged the church to go beyond mere knowledge of God or strategy for ministry. Instead, he said, we need to develop a close relationship with God rooted in a dialogue of prayer. “Prayer is the major thing in our life and ministry,” he said. “Prayer should go first.” He guided the body in prayer for revival using Tongson Kido, a Korean tradition of individuals praying aloud simultaneously around a common theme; and then in intercessory prayer with a prayer partner.

Elections for the lay and clergy positions on the delegations to General and Jurisdictional Conferences began Monday afternoon with two ballots each for clergy and lay delegates. On the second lay ballot, Karon Mann, Arkansas Conference lay leader, became the first elected delegate. She will attend the 2016 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore., and the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Wichita, Kan.

The first four lay and clergy delegates elected will form Arkansas’ delegation of eight to General Conference. The next four lay and clergy will join the first eight as delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. Four alternates, two lay and two clergy, also will be elected. A candidate must receive votes on more than 50 percent of valid ballots in a given round to be elected.

“I’ll know you’re experiencing spiritual revival when a group of people in your church—it doesn’t have to be everyone—when people begin to fall deeply in love with Jesus…. When you change from being a group of individuals into a movement committed to engage the mission field…. when people start asking you, ‘What in heaven’s name is going on in that church?’”

—Bishop Gary Mueller, in the 2015 Episcopal Address

“The personal part of preparing for spiritual revival—the recognizing of our need for obedience to God, the personal willingness to listen for God’s voice and live out his calling in our world—it begins right here, in our own hearts.”

—Karon Mann, Conference lay leader, in the 2015 Laity Address
Remembering their calling... and ours

At Monday afternoon’s memorial service, the Rev. Dr. Walter “Bubba” Smith delivered the sermon, calling the members of the annual conference to remember that we are indebted to those who have gone before us:

“We still stand on the shoulders and in the shadows of those who have served our churches, both large and small.”

He recalled Paul’s writings in Ephesians 4 to remind those gathered of the calling placed upon every Christian.

“The one thing that all those names that will be called have in common is that they were all called to serve…. They stayed the course. Why did they hang in there? Because they remembered that their calling first was to build up the body of Christ.”

Monitoring for inclusiveness at AC2015

The Arkansas Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) would like to thank the worship planning team for use of gender-inclusive language in hymns, prayers, and liturgy. Monday’s images and icons of Jesus adorning the altar area could have shown greater ethnic and racial diversity, but the diversity among persons appearing on the platform, in terms of gender, age, and ethnicity, is to be commended.

Representatives of both COSROW and the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) will continue monitoring participation and leadership for attention to inclusiveness.

—submitted by the Rev. Natasha Murray-Norman on behalf of Arkansas Conference COSROW

We need to wake up!

Excerpts from the Rev. Paul Rasmussen’s Sunday night sermon, “Right Here”:

• “The message of God is not dying. We can be part of it, or we can sleep through it. But we need to wake up.”
• “How do we wake up? By making the most of every opportunity…. Sometimes we like to sleep through the opportunity before us in order to dream about the one we don’t even have yet.”
• “We concentrate more on there than we do on here. Now here’s the problem: what you become right here is going to dictate what happens to you when you get there.”
• “Sometimes we don’t see the tree because it’s disguised as a seed. Sometimes we miss it.”

Recommended reading from Bishop Gary Mueller

All of these books recommended by Bishop Mueller are currently available for purchase at the Cokesbury display:

• Loving the World with God: Fourth Day Living by Rebecca Dwight Bruff
• Calvin vs Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice by Don Thorsen
• Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It by Adam Hamilton
• Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr
• 101 Ways to Reach Your Community by Steve Sjogren

Trivia time! Complete one of the following to claim a prize at the Daily Digest desk (to the right of the stage). Quantities limited; first-come, first-serve.

• There are 18 clergy couples listed in the Conference Directory. Name at least six of them and post a photo to social media with one couple using the #arumc15 hashtag. Show your list and your photo to claim a prize.
• Find any number of clergy whose years of service add up to exactly your age. Show your work, and a photo of the clergy.
• Nine new pastors will be ordained at tonight’s worship service. Bring a photo of yourself with any two of them.

Find the Daily Digest online

PDF versions of each day’s Daily Digest will be posted at http://ac2015.arumc.org, making it easier to share with your friends who aren’t attending Annual Conference.