



CONNECTIONS

ARDMORE UMC

ISSUE #1

January 2025



Leonidas B. Hayes



Marcus T. Smathers



William A. Rollins

Ardmore M. E., South, 1925-1930: Growing Pains of a Young Church

Returning to “ordinary” Christian work after a successful building program and consecration of a new sanctuary can be a bit of a letdown. The five years following the departure of Dr. Hiatt were no exception, as Ardmore struggled with debt and how to find her way. Her new pastor, the Rev. L.B. Hayes, understood the challenges and growing pains of the young church. He held a Thanksgiving morning service at 8 a.m. and invited those who normally spent the holiday hunting to attend in their hunting gear before heading out. He was popular and gracious when the church members fell behind in paying his salary, and encouraging of the young church. Ardmore adored Rev. Hayes and supported him when his wife, Agnes, died of complications following the birth of their fourth child. He “bore his grief nobly” and told a friend, “the anchor holds,” citing his faith as a comfort. Construction of a parsonage adjacent to the sanctuary was in process and a unanimous request had been made that he be returned when it was announced he would be moved to Centenary-West End in October 1927.

The new pastor, Rev. M.T. Smathers, was well-known for his staunch belief in strict adherence to the Methodist Discipline; he knew it well and followed it exactly. His personal behavior and character were beyond reproach, although his Puritanical views perhaps did not mesh well with the young, forward-thinking Ardmore congregation. In particular, he took exception to the congregation’s habit of catching up as able in paying his salary. C.C. Smithdeal noted in *Ardmore*

United Methodist: Birth of a Church that Rev. Smathers announced from the pulpit in September 1928 that if the congregation did not pay his salary to date, he would not be returning, and said philosophically, “We paid him but he never returned. We decided he just wasn’t our man.” He was one of only two pastors in Ardmore’s first century to serve just one year at our church.

The appointment of Rev. W.A. Rollins was greeted with enthusiasm; the women of the church had the parsonage all ready and a meal to greet the new pastor’s family. It was a challenging time with the stock market crash coinciding with the necessity of merging Centenary and West End Methodist Churches, but Ardmore continued to grow under Rev. Rollins’ leadership. It was noted that a full-time janitor was now needed by the church and that the number of bulletins being mimeographed for Sunday services needed to be increased from 200 to 250 to match the demand. During Rev. Rollins’ tenure, a Boy Scout troop, #49, was added, led by Banks Newman; today known as Troop 749, it is the oldest troop in continuous existence in Forsyth County. The Women’s Missionary Society took on the responsibility of paying the additional apportionments to help the men of the church meet our obligations during 1930.

Thank you for reading!

Barbara Foster

Greetings and Happy New Year to and from Ardmore United Women in Faith!



Looking back to 2024, I have to mention the AUW Faith post worship Christmas "Tea". This was our "Christmas card" offered joyfully and lovingly to the whole congregation, those worshipping at 10:00 as well as those worshipping at 11:15. The response has been positive and encouraging. You have spoken! We will keep this tradition going until we are told to stop. (Next year I plan to remember to take pics, fingers crossed.)

So now we begin a new year. January tends to be mostly about planning...planning for the rest of the year. We will have a board meeting in February, at which we will iron out details for the Prayer and Self-Denial service. (Watch for the date.) As in years past, the theme will be self-denial. At the same time the event will include a healthy dose of self indulgence in the form of a potluck brunch.

We are already scheduled to serve two meals at Shalom Project Flourish Program meetings: once in February and once again in April.

In 2024, our Stitchers Circle donated over a hundred pieces, hats and scarves, to the Shalom Project. Now they will be asked to knit and crochet hats for the annual UW Faith Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat Tea in June. These hats will be gratefully received by Cancer Services. Thank you, Stitchers!

If January is for planning, it is also a time for epiphany. It's the time we remember the three Wise Men following the star to find the infant, Jesus. In looking up the meaning of this word I find the following: "a usually sudden manifestation;" or "an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking." I pray that after all the necessary, often hectic, holiday activity, I may be still enough to be open to an epiphany or two.

Till February then... Blessings!

Nancy Norton, President Ardmore United Women in Faith



This is My Father's World

When I first offered to participate with Ardmore Church's effort to take care of the Earth I thought it was called Earth Care. Only later did I realize it's called Creation Care. The difference is immediately obvious. We do need to take care of the Earth—because that's where we live. And when we're dead and gone our children and grandchildren will still live here. (With the possible exception that a few might make it to Mars with Elon Musk's crew.) But thinking of this place as the Father's Creation should change our motivation. We must never grow tired of that. Here are the lyrics to the hymn, "This is My Father's World," written by Maltbie D. Babcock in 1901. (It can be found in most traditional hymnals.)

This is my Father's world:
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily whit,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

It ends with "He speaks to me everywhere." But if we don't have listening ears, as in the second line, we may not hear when He speaks. Or if we don't have observing eyes, we may see but fail to notice.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let's be intentional about enjoying the wonderfully beautiful home the Father has prepared for us, and with gratitude do our part to care for it. On the next page are ten simple suggestions.

1) Bring natural beauty into your home: wall pictures and calendars of nature, backgrounds on phone and computer screens, house plants and flower arrangements. Beautiful arrangements can be made without flowers using leaves, branches, and weeds, even in the winter. Change them regularly. As you select and pick items remember to thank the Father.

2) Practice conversations to observe with gratitude the Father's love-gifts from nature. When you observe, "It's a beautiful Day," follow up with, "The Father Is Smiling at Us." Or "It looks like it's gonna rain on our picnic...I guess the Father thinks it's time for the world's bath."

3) Start family (or personal) traditions like "Wednesday is Walk in the World Day" or every Sunday after church take the long way home that goes by a river, through woods, or over hills. Stop and smell the roses.

4) Play Creation games. Nature 20 questions: "I'm looking at something that the Father made. Can you guess it?" Or more generally, "I'm looking at something; can you guess it?" and the first question is, "Did the Father make it?" Yes or No, and then proceed with question 2.

5) Scavenger Hunt: Make a list of things to find in nature. For example look for an acorn, a seed, a pine cone, a berry, something yellow, something cold, something flat, something pointy, etc. Or prepare a nature activity check list: hear a bird call, sit on a log, throw a stone into water, eat something wild (not a mushroom unless you're sure it's safe), hug a tree, say a prayer under an oak tree, trace the shape of your hand on dead wood, stack rocks, hold hands walking across a field, write your name in sand, walk along a path backwards.

6) Go on a photo safari—you will likely see beauty where you would not have otherwise noticed it. Then spend some time together looking at each other's pictures. The first time go out in your own yard or neighborhood, then go to different locations.

7) Pick a spot between your door and mailbox where you can regularly greet the Father. Assume He's waiting for you there and stop and greet Him. Share how your day is going. I recommend not using this time for making requests, but express gratitude. You might hear Him tell you that He loves you.

8) Grow a garden, if necessary in boxes or buckets on a porch. Include both items for consumption and beauty. Give it a name like New Eden, God's Grove, Father's Farm, Glory Garden, or Nature's Nook. Say hello to the Father when you go to it.

9) Take Trash Treks. Carry a brown paper bag in your pocket so you can pick up pieces of trash when you see them. Then empty the bag when you get to a trash can and put it back in your pocket. A family Trash Trek can be fun where everyone works together to feed the hungry trash can.

10) Draw a card or poster for your night stand. State on the front that in the morning you're going to love the Father by making His creation better and more beautiful today. Then turn it over and on the back ask yourself if you did make it better or more beautiful today.

In The Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray, "...thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." Let's make Earth as much like Heaven as we possibly can.

“Senior Moments”

Happy New Year!!! Can you believe that it is 2025? I'm still trying to catch up with 2024 things. Last year had its ups and downs and this year most likely will too, but we must “hang in there” and hope for the best and do our best to make it a great year. Ardmore UMC has a lot to look forward to and a lot to offer to members, visitors, and the community.

December's Young at Heart event was fun and festive with “The Fun Fatale Trio.” We had a great turn out... I was worried about having enough food, but we had plenty. Our January gathering is still in the planning stages. It will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bob Martin Fellowship Hall. We will have a buffet lunch: \$12.00/person. I am waiting to hear from the dulcimer group, “Friends with Strings” for our program. They will be another “rerun” program, as they were with us a couple of years ago and they were very entertaining. I'll let you know more when I hear from them, and I'll give you all the details for the day.

I don't usually make New Year's Resolutions because I can never keep them, but I do sort of think of things that I want to work on in the new year. This year I hope to see us at Ardmore get to know each other better. We have lots of new members, people of many different ages, and members who attend three different services. It's hard to get to know people whom we rarely see. Maybe we can attend more intergenerational activities, e.g. Bible Study classes, different services, and Young at Heart. Look around and find someone you don't know and speak to them. When we are "Passing the Peace," we can do that easily, as well as before and after the services. Let's step out of our comfort zones and meet someone new... New and long-time members can do this. Maybe 2025 will be the year of trying new things and/or overcoming uncomfortable situations. Let's put our "old" ways behind us and make some changes. This reminds me of Barbara Johnson's quote: "I always feel good about the start of a new year. To many of us, January is the eraser God provides to wipe the slate clean."

Happy New Year!!!

Mary Jo

Coordinator, Senior Adult Ministries
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JANUARY

Kids Worship & Events Schedule

Join us on Sunday mornings during our 10AM or 11:15AM Worship Services for a Kids & Family Worship Experience. This is a fun, interactive and engaging time of worship for kids pre-k – 5th grade, we also invite parents to join in! Come hang out in Room #215!

DATE	THEME	ACTIVITY & CRAFT
01/05/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP [PANCAKES & PAJAMAS] Wear your favorite pjs and come ready for fun and pancakes! The Wise Men Arrived Matthew 2	Game: Follow the Star Craft: Creative Crowns Snack: Pancakes
01/11/2025 10AM – 11AM	 PLAYGROUND PARTY! Come celebrate the Playground Party's 3rd Birthday with Fun Games, Crafts & CAKE!!!!	
01/12/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP CROSSING THE JORDAN Joshua 1, 3 – 4	Game: Jump the River Craft: Box Building Snack: Edible River
01/19/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP THE WALLS FELL DOWN Joshua 2 – 4; 6	Game: Let the Walls Fall Craft: Building a Band Snack: Tasty Trumpets
01/26/2025 10AM & 11:15AM	KIDS & FAMILY WORSHIP Ai NOT A.I. Joshua 7 – 8	Game: Listen & Obey Craft: Victory Flag Snack: Victory Snack Mix



Nursery (Birth – 18 Months) → Room #121

Preschool (18 Months – 4 Years) → Room #122

JANUARY 2025 SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS: 3:30PM – 5:30PM IN ROOM #217

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH

BIBLE LESSON: EPIPHANY ADVENTURE
An afternoon of discovery, fun & celebration!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH

BIBLE LESSON: WHAT IS YOUR VISION?
'Cerealsly' Fun Night: Cereal Bar & All Kinds of FUN!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH

BIBLE LESSON: ARE YOU ALL IN?
Mission Impossible: Complete a Series of Challenges Together as a Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH

BIBLE LESSON: GO FAR, NOT FAST!
Snowball Games

**Happy 2025 from the Mission Engagement Committee!
Thank you for your continued support of Ardmore United
Methodist Church's Outreach Programs.**

Food Pantry Needs

Baby Diapers, Sizes 4, 5 and 6
Boxes/bags of cookies and
crackers

Clothing Closet Needs

Men's and children's clothing
Undergarments for men, women
and children

Our Lady of Salem Shelter for Women

Open Sun Dec 1, 2024 – Fri Feb 28, 2025

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church's Women's Overflow Homeless Shelter will open nightly this season, serving the most vulnerable among us. While we have a new name, **Our Lady of Salem Women's Shelter**, and a new partner, **The Dwelling**, the volunteer set-up remains the same as it has been for the past 12 years. Thank you for volunteering to help our guests and providing them with radical hospitality. If you have any questions about volunteering at St. Timothy's, please contact Kristen Machado at: kpmachado@ourladyofsalem.org. If you'd like to learn more about our shelter and/or make a donation, please visit <https://sttimothysws.org/homeless-shelter>

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, February 10th



The holidays may be in the rearview mirror but giving the gift of life is ever on the road ahead. Sign up now for donating your life giving and saving blood, Monday, February 10, 2:00 pm - 6:30. Please reserve a time using this website or telephoning the American Red Cross: 800-733-2767.

Our Ardmore UMC goal is 36 units of blood. We can do it. If this is a first time or a repeat donation, you will be welcomed warmly and guided thru the process with hospitality and gratitude. If you happen to know your blood type is A-, B-, O-, O+, please consider giving a Power Red donation. These donations take a bit longer (about 20 minutes) and yield twice the impact of a single blood donation.

Please register now at

[https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Ardmore UMC](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Ardmore%20UMC)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Help Wanted to Prepare Meals for the Food Pantry in 2025

We are looking for groups, clubs, and committees to prepare and serve a meal for our grateful guests at Our Father's Table Food Pantry. The pantry is open the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 5:30-7:00pm and we are feeding approximately 120 people each night. There is a \$200 budget to help cover food costs. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Eva Jane Felts at 336-971-3851 or ejfelts@triad.rr.com.

The Chosen Bible Study Continues!

Join us as we watch and discuss Season Four of "The Chosen". "God's Goodness for the Chosen" takes us through 8 lessons which reveal how God uses suffering to bring about good things in the lives of those He loves. Starting Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 304. If interested and would like a study book, contact Eva Jane Felts at ejfelts@triad.rr.com or Marilyn Parker at marilyn.parker0462@gmail.com.



Happy Birthday!

January

1ST

Joanne Hamlet
Valarie Martin
Mary Claire Nicholson

2ND

John Corum, II
Barbara Creasy
Jim Yearty

3RD

Harriet Owen

4TH

Jack Kennedy

6TH

Keith Gough

9TH

David Burkeo
Pamela Hucks
Paul Jones, III

11TH

Hannah Brawley

12TH

Rhonda Nixon

13TH

Suzanne Johnson
John Robbins

18TH

Rev. Kelly Carpenter
Benjamin Hucks

20TH

Mark Scheerer

21ST

Dwight Haigler
Mary Crawford

22ND

Liz Lamphear

25TH

Jennifer Chapman
Phillip Orr
Jeff Patten

27TH

Robin Anderson

28TH

David Lamphear
Carl Slater

29TH

Margaret Browning