

# FORWARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM

This issue we're covering:

ESJ PROFESSORS AT OXFORD

NEW STAFF JOIN FFE

DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD RECIPIENTS

SEJ HERITAGE CENTER TO SHARE SPACE WITH FFE

WALLACE CHAPPELL LECTURE

LATEST PEW RESEARCH

NEW E. STANLEY JONES BOOK



## E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism Meet at Oxford

John and Charles Wesley began "The Holy Club" on the campus of the University of Oxford, so it is fitting that every four years, theologians in the Methodist/Wesleyan connection from around the globe gather at the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies. In August, the Institute convened at Pembroke College, near Christ Church where John and Charles Wesley began their ministries that ultimately grew into a global Christian movement.

This year, in place of The Foundation for Evangelism's bi-annual meeting of the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism (ESJP), each professor was invited to submit an academic paper and to present their work at the Institute.

Professors from seven of the 12 currently occupied E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism Chairs attended the event where they participated in working groups on Worship and Spirituality, Practical Theology, Theological Education, and Mission and Evangelism. Those attending included Dr. Bryan Stone (Boston University School of Theology), Dr. Mark Teasdale (Garrett-Evangelical Theolog-

ical Seminary), Dr. Daniel Shin (Drew Theological School), Dr. Joon Sik Park (Methodist Theological School in Ohio), Dr. Jeffrey Conklin-Miller (Duke Divinity School), Dr. Sergei Nikolaev (Moscow Theological Seminary of The United Methodist Church), Dr. Stephen Gunter (FFE Professorships Director), and Jane Boatwright Wood (FFE President). Beyond these current professors, three former ESJPs participated in the event including Professor Priscilla Pope-Levison, who was a plenary lecturer.

The time provided academic and theological exploration; however it also provided a time for building connection and contemplating practical application in mission and evangelism. Dr. Daniel Shin said of the gathering:

*This experience has given me a better understanding of the global reach and character of the Wesleyan/Methodist movement, and as such it was a very meaningful experience. I have made connections with people from Africa, southeast Asia, Korea, England, and of course, the U.S, with whom I hope to continue conversations for further studies and shared ministries.*

Jane Boatwright Wood, President of The Foundation for Evangelism, reflected that the event was a

testament to the impact of the ESJPs on the global academic community, and confirmed that the professors were fulfilling the Foundation's vision to be a catalyst to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*The E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism are a partnership between The Foundation for Evangelism and the respective seminaries to prepare the next generation of leaders for ministry in the local church through classes in evangelism, missions, and a variety of other disciplines all taught with a focus on evangelism in the spirit of John Wesley. Through ongoing research and publication, these professors reach far beyond the seminary walls to educate and equip clergy, laity, and youth for evangelism ministries that bear fruit in the 21st century local church. Visit [foundationforevangelism.org/esjprofessors](http://foundationforevangelism.org/esjprofessors).*

*The Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies is an affiliate of the World Methodist Council. Its mission is to foster and support disciplined theological study among professional scholars and scholarly ministers and laypersons within the Methodist and Wesleyan traditions around the globe, with a goal of under-girding and enriching the ministry of these traditions in their global settings.*

*"This experience has given me a better understanding of the global reach and character of the Wesleyan/Methodist movement.... I have made connections with people from Africa, southeast Asia, Korea, England, and of course, the U.S, with whom I hope to continue conversations for further studies and shared ministries.*



**Dr. Daniel Shin**  
ESJ Professor at Drew Theological School

## Consider an End-of-Year Gift

The E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism, Harry Denman Evangelism Awards and Wallace Chappell Lectures continue to make an impact as CATALYSTs to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! If you would like to make sure that these and other grant-programs continue to empower evangelism ministries, consider making an end-of-year gift to The Foundation for Evangelism using the enclosed envelope or at [foundationforevangelism.org/donation](http://foundationforevangelism.org/donation). All gifts are tax-deductible.



FFE Staff join with Smoky Mountain District UMC and friends at a recent lunch

## Welcoming New Staff

### Two new faces join the FFE team

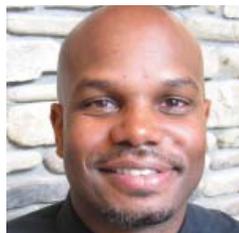
Over the summer months, The Foundation for Evangelism welcomed two new staff members to the team.

#### Meet D'Andre Ash

D'Andre joined the team in July, working in development and promotions for The Foundation, and bringing a fresh perspective to the team. Immediately before joining FFE, he served eight years as planter/pastor of a metro-Atlanta church. He has also served in teaching and leadership capacities for public and private schools.

His interests include spiritual formation, leadership, church health, evangelism, and faith-based social justice.

D'Andre has earned a B.A. in Organizational Leadership from Mercer University and a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary. He, his wife Sheree, and 1 year old Isabella (Bella) are enjoying the adjustment from Atlanta, Ga., to Western North Carolina.



#### Meet Barby Bowser

Barby Bowser is returning to The FFE as the executive assistant and communications coordinator. Barby served the FFE from 2004-2012, then worked with The World Methodist Council. She joined the FFE staff in August.

Barby attends Waynesville First United Methodist Church. She enjoys hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains, reading, making, and trying new international foods (kimchi and semla are favorites, but not at the same time!).

Barby graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla. with a double-major in Communications and Advertising. She and her husband Brad, an assistant I.T. director, have been married 15 years and have two children, Amelia (7) and Emmett (4). They live in Clyde, N.C.



## Walking in Harry's Footsteps

### UMC Annual Conferences honor legacy through the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards

Dr. Harry Denman, founder of The Foundation for Evangelism for whom this award was named, wrote, "I want the Methodist Church to become a great evangelistic movement because of its social passion concerning the welfare of every individual." In 2018, 64 awards were given by 32 Annual Conferences.



#### Greater New Jersey Pastor Preaches "Why Jesus" in All He Does

Timothy Myunghoon Ahn has been in full-time ministry for over thirty years, growing two churches in Boston and New Jersey from about thirty to one hundred fifty people. He is currently senior pastor of the Arcola Korean United Methodist Church (AKUMC), where he has been leading for twenty years.

Rev. Ahn is passionate about mission and outreach, leading and participating in various local initiatives to further the gospel. AKUMC is involved in an annual lunch outreach to homeless people in New York. The church also supports Rev. Ahn as he leads training for local pastors annually in nations such as Mexico, Bolivia, Laos, Bangkok, Cambodia and Mongolia. This past year, more than thirty people were baptized at AKUMC's mission center in Bolivia during a revival conference led by Rev. Ahn.

At home, Rev. Ahn's ministry reaches young and old with his preaching focusing on "why Jesus." He practices a ministry of presence, visiting people in their homes. Rev. Ahn encourages confirmation students as they make the gospel faith their own, and he teaches faith-building classes at the church's Wesley Discipleship School twice a year.

The church sees the impact of Rev. Ahn's ministry in the stability and steady growth of the church, and his continuing evangelism and outreach inspires others to do the same for Jesus Christ.



#### Young Evangelist Helps Bring People Closer to God

Anyone who has met Sean Mevis says he is an amazing young man who does not let Cerebral Palsy, or confinement to a wheelchair, get in his way. His presence is a beacon of hope and joy for fellow church members each week, and he makes everyone who crosses his path feel special and loved.

Several years ago, Sean became involved in a Tennessee Annual Conference youth ministry winter retreat. There he found a place among the drama team, making the scripture come alive for his peers. Outside of the annual event, he also shares scripture in his local church, prays for others, gives them high-5s and makes them feel loved. Through his actions, he helps others gain an understanding of God's unconditional love.

At a recent youth event, Sean reached out to one of the production company's team members who was facing cancer treatment. Sean asked if he could pray for the team member, held his hand asking for God's love and reassurance. This encounter and many others like it speak to Sean Mevis' role as an "every-day evangelist."



## Missouri Layman Has A Heart for Families

When George Handy learned that his church's Trunk-or-Treat event was being discontinued due to lack of leadership, he stepped up, recognizing the event as a way to reach people outside the walls of the church. He mobilized members and non-members in organizing an event that had more in attendance than any other event the church has held. Handy personally invited over 100 families, and 103 new families attended from the community, nine families (18 persons) of which returned for worship.

This year Handy has also lead an evangelism effort to reach out to residents of a local apartment complex, many of whom are underserved families, through an ice cream truck ministry. When the school bus arrives church members visit with the children and families while eating ice cream and building relationships. Last year before Christmas, he organized for hot chocolate and cookies to be hand-delivered to apartment residents with an invitaiton to attend Christmas Eve Services. Relationships continue to be nurtured with these neighboring families as they are encouraged to participate in small groups, Bible studies and worship.

Handy has been an active member of First Kearney UMC's Outreach Ministry for several years, serving locally and internationally. He is a busy man, prioritizing family and a small business, while rarely missing an opportunity to serve God by sharing the Good News. He exemplifies the very best of those who witness for Christ. His serving is a natural outpouring of his love for Jesus.

## 2018 Recipients of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award

*Sorted by Annual Conference*

Rev. Matthew Mobley, Alabama-West Florida (C)  
Ms. Merrily York, Alabama-West Florida (L)  
Rev. Lisa Talbott, Alaska (C)  
Mr. Paul Williams, Alaska (L)  
Mr. David Leech, Arkansas (L)  
Rev. Danita Waller Paige, Arkansas (C)  
Pastor Don Vanderlip, Dakotas (C)  
Rev. Richard Conner, Eastern Pennsylvania (C)  
Ms. Apryl Miller, Eastern Pennsylvania (L)  
Ms. Gwen Eidman, Great Plains (L)  
Rev. Timothy Myunghoon Ahn, Greater New Jersey (C)  
Rev. Dr. Jason McIntosh, Holston (C)  
Ms. Christina Trent, Holston (L)  
Rev. K. Bruce Rushing, IGR (C)  
Miss Katie Gerber, Kentucky (Y)  
Rev. Brad Shuck, Kentucky (C)  
Rev. Dr. Pat Day, Louisiana (C)  
Mr. Bud Lee, Louisiana (L)  
Ms. Angela Ramsey, Louisiana (Y)  
Miss Kelly Greer, Memphis (Y)  
Rev. James Luvene, Memphis (C)  
Mr. David R. Reed, Memphis (L)  
Mr. Eric Bjorklund, Minnesota (L)  
Rev. Whitney Sheridan, Minnesota (C)  
Mr. George Handy, Missouri (L)  
Rev. David Israel, Missouri (C)  
Ms. Leigh Anne Duff, Mountain Sky (L)  
Mr. James Davis, North Georgia (L)  
Rev. William Sei Hwan Kim, North Georgia (C)  
Rev. Tony Johnson, North Alabama (C)  
Ms. Paula Phillips, North Alabama (L)  
Mr. Billy Prewitt, North Alabama (Y)  
Miss Hanna Berg, North Carolina (Y)

Rev. David Blackman, North Carolina (C)  
Mr. Randy Evans, North Carolina (L)  
Ms. Windy Hassell Rose, North Carolina (L)  
Ms. Vicki Busby, North Texas (L)  
Rev. Marie Mitchell, North Texas (C)  
Ms. Anna Shipley, North Texas (Y)  
Rev. Vladimir Labrador, Northwest Texas (C)  
Rev. Robert Pierson, Oklahoma (C) (*deceased*)  
Mrs. Delia Pierson, Oklahoma (L)  
Ms. Audrey Lawrence, Oregon-Idaho (L)  
Rev. Ralph Lawrence, Oregon-Idaho (C)  
Rev. Reed Brock, Red Bird (C)  
Mr. Charles Dooley, Red Bird (L)  
Ms. Charena Myers, South Carolina (Y)  
Mr. L.W. Smith, South Carolina (L)  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew and Tammy Reynolds, South Georgia (L)  
Rev. Jennifer Parks-Snyder, Susquehanna (C)  
Ms. Jennifer Zack, Susquehanna (L)  
Rev. Jacob C. Armstrong, Tennessee (C)  
Mr. C. James Melrose, Tennessee (L)  
Mr. Sean Mevis, Tennessee (Y)  
Mr. Kevin Dunn, Upper New York (L) (*deceased*)  
Pastor Michael J. Kelly, Upper New York (C)  
Rev. Larry J. Cochran, Virginia (C)  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin and Judy Mooers, Virginia (L)  
Mr. Justin Robins, Virginia (Y)  
Ms. Trish McKinney, West Ohio (L)  
Rev. Dr. Harley Roston, West Ohio (C)  
Mr. Ross Thornton, West Virginia (L)  
Rev. Ken Ramsey, West Virginia (C)  
Rev. Donnie Mitchem, Western North Carolina (C)  
Rev. Keith McGarvey, Western PA (C)  
Ms. Marcia Shick Grim, Western PA (L)

*Since 1981, 3,042 Harry Denman Evangelism Awards have been presented!*



## SEJ Heritage Center to Share Space with FFE

The Foundation for Evangelism (FFE) and The Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Heritage Center are pleased to announce that beginning in 2019, the two organizations will be sharing office and archival space at the FFE's headquarters on the campus of Lake Junaluska Assembly in North Carolina. The SEJ Heritage Center will be the second organization to lease space at the location, joining the Smoky Mountain District (SMD) of the United Methodist Church which has housed its offices there since 2012. Although the SEJ Heritage Center will no longer be housed by Lake Junaluska Assembly, it will remain located on the Assembly grounds, and its long-time relationship with the Assembly will continue.

Renovations will begin in December 2018 which will allow the SEJ Heritage Center to relocate and occupy a portion of the office space currently utilized by FFE and SMD staff and will also include storage space to be converted to an area for archives.

Jane Boatwright Wood, President of The Foundation for Evangelism notes that "The cultivating of this relationship has been an ongoing process. We believe that this partnership enhances the ministry of both organizations. Our team is excited to welcome the Heritage Center as they continue to keep alive the unique history of Methodism by preserving and sharing our stories."

Jim Pyatt, Chair of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History, states that this partnership in ministry

should be mutually beneficial. He goes on to note that "The Heritage Center is the repository for the papers of Harry Denman, the founder of the Foundation for Evangelism," adding that, "Part of the function of The Heritage Center is to preserve and record the story of how the people called Methodist have shared the Good News of the love of Jesus with others. This partnership helps to remind us all of the mission of the church."

This partnership between the FFE and SEJ Heritage Center will also provide access to onsite meeting facilities including the Reynolds Conference Center which is utilized throughout the year by Methodist-related organizations and churches for retreats, trainings, meetings, and special events. A small chapel is also part of the facility and provides space for worship, reflection, and prayer.

The SEJ Heritage Center serves as the Museum and Archives for the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) of the United Methodist Church and, as such, for Lake Junaluska Assembly, the oldest and largest of the SEJ agencies. In this capacity the center houses the essential historical records for both agencies, and is a significant resource for anyone doing research on either the Lake Junaluska Assembly, on the SEJ, or on historical matters related to the United Methodist Church in this part of the United States. Those interested in finding out more or scheduling a visit to the Heritage Center should contact the director at [heritage@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:heritage@lakejunaluska.com).

# WHY AMERICANS DO (OR DON'T) ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

PEW RESEARCH CENTER - DEC. 2017

## REASONS FOR ATTENDING



Become closer to God



Give children a good moral foundation



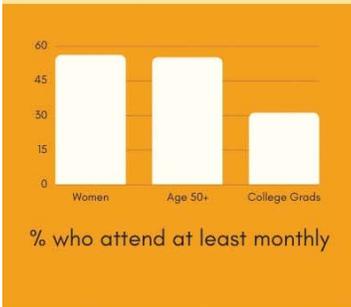
Become a better person



For support in times of trouble/sorrow



61 % attend to draw closer to God



Nearly 3/4 feel a sense of community with people who share their religion when they attend



Six-in-ten say they feel a sense of connection to a longstanding tradition.

## REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING



Practice their faith in other ways



Dislike the congregation/service



Not a Believer



Not Practical

Among those who rarely attend, four-in-ten say they practice their faith in other ways.

Source: Pew Research Center, "Why Americans Go (and Don't Go) to Religious Services", Dec. 2017

FOUNDATIONFOREVANGELISM.ORG



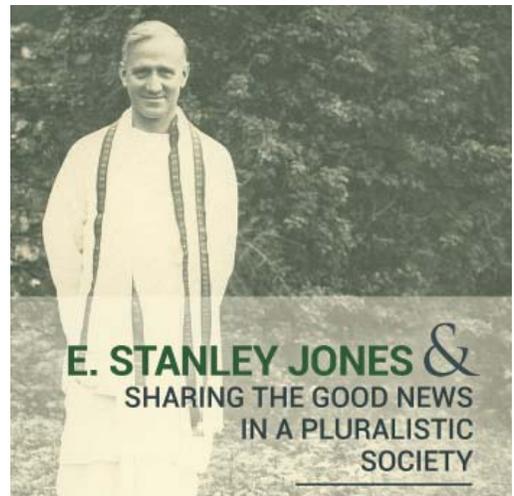
## Save the Date Wallace Chappell Lecture

sponsored by the Foundation for Evangelism

St. Paul School of Theology, Wesley Covenant Chapel - Kansas Campus

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 11:00 AM

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson



## E.S.J. Professors of Evangelism Author New Book on Jones

A new book, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism and the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, explores the ideas and insights of evangelist E. Stanley Jones with essays by E.S.J. Professors of Evangelism. <http://bit.ly/esjbookgoodnews>



125 N. Lakeshore Drive • P.O. Box 985  
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745  
(828) 454.6800  
[www.foundationforevangelism.org](http://www.foundationforevangelism.org)



**Vision** *to be a CATALYST to equip disciples to share the Good News of Jesus Christ*

## Mission

To promote, encourage, and provide resources for Wesleyan evangelism, inviting all people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Values

Called to be used by God to share the Gospel message to:

- Equip disciples
- Nurture generative leaders
- Develop synergy among clergy and lay
- Transform lives and community
- Leverage relationships and partnership
- Steward resources to fulfill our call