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October 2009

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



**IGPonderings** by Interim General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Sallie M. Watson



Dear friends,

As I get ready to turn over the keys to the Presbytery office to Bill Galbraith, I want to share some "words of wisdom" gleaned over these last 18 months. I hope they will be helpful as you move forward into this new phase of your life together.

1. Take good care of the Presbytery staff. Joan, Pauline, NiAnn, Brian and Cathy are a collective treasure, committed and faithful and fun to minister alongside. Bill will be a wonderful addition to an already-healthy staff.
2. Find the joy in this ministry, even when it may be difficult to do so. Keep your perspective on God's call to you.
3. You as a Presbytery, and as individuals, are a willing, hard-working, bottomless pool of God-given gifts. Get to know Bill, offer to help in any way, and don't be afraid to ask him or the rest of the staff for what you need.
4. Keep the Stated Clerk supplied with M&Ms, and it will go well with you.
5. Even as you cherish the rich history of this presbytery, don't be afraid to follow a new leading of the Spirit. God has gifted you for such a time as this.
6. Exercise your sense of humor early and often.
7. Invite Bill and Joan in particular to worship with you. There's no better way to improve your staff's outlook than to share with them the creative energy in your congregation.
8. Remember the sabbath and keep it holy - and wholly! Work hard as appropriate, but take your day off and expect the staff to do so as well.
9. Most any excuse to go to Ferncliff will be time well spent. Write that upon your foreheads!
10. Draw upon your colleagues and friends for wisdom, and discernment, and direction, and a periodic reality check. As opposed to hanging separately, choose to hang together.

You have been easy to love, Presbytery of Arkansas, and a cause for great pride. I know that Bill will come to love you as much as I have. I'm a better person for having had the privilege of serving among you.

Blessings to you, my friends -

[Sallie](#)

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## Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs Hosts 112th Stated Presbytery Meeting

(Commissioners may use this page as their report to Session. A printable copy is available [here](#).)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Assistant Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Arkansas convened Thursday evening, October 8, 2009 in the sanctuary of Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs after three concurrent pre-presbytery workshops were attended by 54 people. Moderator Claire Rhodes called the meeting to order for the first business session. Leading

evening worship were Revs. Jeff Cranton and Judith Kelley, who officiated at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Rev. Kendal Land who preached; Rev. Dan Festa and elders Ruth Hamilton, Kenneth Rhodes, Susie Wright, and Carol Dunkle with music by a joint choir, handbells and a trumpeter directed by Joyce Buettgen. A total of 183 registered for the last meeting of the year. Thursday night's worship offering to the Presbytery's Disaster Relief Fund to respond to disasters within the presbytery totaled \$1,935.00. Paper goods for the Charitable Christian Medical Clinic of Hot Springs were donated as the meeting's Ingathering Offering as the meeting concluded on Friday.

**Special highlights** of the 112th Stated Meeting were the election of the new General Presbyter and adoption of a new Vision Statement. Rev. Dr. William F. "Bill" Galbraith, head of staff at First Presbyterian, Fort Smith, was elected to a five-year term of service beginning on November 9, and his terms of call were approved. Installation was set for the 113th Stated Meeting of Presbytery in February at Lyon College, Batesville. The following Vision Statement was adopted by and for the Presbytery: **The vision of the Presbytery of Arkansas is to make visible the body of Christ. Called by Christ, we share the promise of our baptism and the hope of God's coming realm. The Presbytery of Arkansas seeks to make visible the body of Christ in Word and sacrament, through teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and acts of compassion. Trusting the Holy Spirit's guidance, we work to order our life together with glad and generous hearts.**

Presbytery's General Council will soon present various and numerous methods for implementing the statement.

**The Presbytery heard:** Holiday Island Presbyterian's commissioner receive a Commitment to Peacemaking certificate from General Assembly; a report from Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission on a guilty plea from a minister member, their rebuke and an order of rehabilitation; the list of ten congregations that contributed to the denomination's Theological Education Fund this year; the annual summary of the work of these groups: Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Committee on Administration (including a four-minute stewardship DVD), Committee on Christian Education and Nurture, commissioners to Synod, and an update from Presbyterian Women; the necrology service of Rev. James Wiley Mosley by Rev. Tom Ulrich and of Rev. Coy Cecil Lee by Elder Lynn Condra; sincere thanks to Interim General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson for 18 months of service through a resolution, a gift and a prayer for her, her ministry and her family; Synod Executive Rev. Judy Fletcher update the presbytery on synod's revised mission and Rev. David Gill on the Solar under the Sun program for producing electricity for mission projects.

**The Presbytery voted to:** receive the review and approval of the 2008 session records; store unique copies of old Presbytery minutes at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia; dissolve the Administrative Commission working with Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian, Coal Hill and those commissions that ordained or installed ministers earlier this year; reconstitute the General Presbyter Search Committee as a team of support and encouragement for the new General Presbyter; examine Candidate Susan Rose for ordination, enroll her as a minister member, approve her terms of call and the Administrative Commission to ordain/install her as campus minister at United Campus Minister at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville on November 1; approve the "Validated Ministry Policy" required by the *Book of Order*; approve terms of call, the details of her installation on October 17 and enroll as a minister member Rev. Nancy Louise Taylor, as pastor at First, Mountain Home; approve the call of Rev. Judith Kelley as pastor of Highland Presbyterian, Hot Springs and the details of her installation on October 11; commission Bruce Schlegel as Commissioned Lay Pastor at Walnut Grove Presbyterian, Farmington and Cane Hill Presbyterian; receive and enroll Rev. Bob Hyatt, honorably retired, of Fort Smith as a minister member; amend the presbytery's *Standing Rules* to standardize voting language, add a section on procedure to replace the Stated Clerk if the person resigns mid-term and to require "active membership" of elders in elected office who have voice and vote at presbytery meetings; amend the presbytery's *Manual of Operations* to add an additional member to the presbytery meeting planning team; change wording to clarify the presbytery policy on "Steps for Closing a Congregation"; revise the Stated Clerk's job description; move "stewardship duties" to the Committee on Administration; amend the mission statement and the standing committees of the Ferncliff Board; add members to the Administrative Commission for First, Des Arc; move Holiday Island Presbyterian and First, Eureka Springs and First, Berryville churches from Cluster I in northwest Arkansas to Cluster II in north central Arkansas; recognize and reward five-year increment anniversaries of ministers, Certified Christian Educators and Commissioned Lay Pastors; elect Rev. Debbie Freeman as presbytery moderator and Commissioned Lay

Pastor Claire Rhodes as General Council moderator for 2010, committee moderators for 2010 and committee members for the Class of 2012; endorse the grant application through the Thank Offering of the Presbyterian Women by Next Step Day Room, Inc. for the Esther House in Fort Smith; and approve three additional elders from First, Little Rock who have been trained to administer the Lord's Supper in special circumstances when a minister cannot be present.

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(Left) Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith, elected General Presbyter at the 112th Stated Meeting, and Rev. Steve Hancock, Moderator of the General Presbyter Search Committee and Pastor of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. Rev. Galbraith is currently Head of Staff at First, Fort Smith.



(Right) Rev. Bob Hyatt, Honorably Retired, was welcomed as a minister member of Presbytery.



(Left) Rev. Judith Kelley was approved as pastor, Highland Presbyterian, Hot Springs and was installed on Sunday, October 11.



(Right) Candidate for Ministry Susan Rose was approved for installation and ordination as campus minister at the United Campus Ministry of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She will be ordained/installed on Sunday, November 1, at First, Springdale.



(Left) Bruce Schlegel was commissioned as lay pastor to Walnut Grove Presbyterian, Farmington and Cane Hill Presbyterian.



(Right) Rev. Nancy Louise Taylor was approved as pastor of First, Mountain Home. She will be installed on Saturday, October 17.



(Left) Rev. Dr. Chip Andrus and Rev. Robert Lowry (not pictured) explain the Vision Statement adopted by Presbytery.

Rev. Michael Vinson (right) presents recognition awards to several congregations that have supported the Theological Education Fund this year.



## Together in God's Grace

by Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson

I believe that church transformation is a normal part of the ebb and flow of every congregation. This is different from those who think that it is a last ditch effort to save a dying church. Whether done intentionally or as embedded in the life of the church, every congregation can grow from time and attention discerning where God is leading that particular part of the body of Christ. The transformation part of it is that, as individuals and congregations, the willingness to be transformed by the hearing of the Word in scripture and by prayer is essential when entering discernment.

So if things are going particularly well right now in your church, or if the challenges of keeping a church going are a strain, or if your congregation is in the midst of a leadership transition please consider a transformation study.



[Joan](#)

## Junior High YouthQuake

132 youth and adult participants representing 24 congregations at the Junior High YouthQuake (JHYQ) had a faith-enriching weekend on



September 25-27. They sang a song written by the keynote speaker, Drew Travis, that included the words "God made me and I am God's child . . . Since it's God who made me I've got to be me." They made posters about their weekend that included the words:

We are the same but  
different  
Be yourself, be someone you  
would be proud to know  
I am me, I am awesome  
I am a child of God  
Wonderfully made  
See the Messiah in everyone




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## PEOPLE AND CHURCH NEWS

### NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- **Dr. Hee-Kyung Juhn** is the new organist at First, Hot Springs.
- **Fran Bailey** is the new church musician/choir director at First, Malvern.
- Gram LeBron's former band, Rogue Wave, is featured in a cameo in the movie *Love Happens* and his debut solo record, *Master of None*, has been released. Gram is the brother of **Rev. Camille LeBron Powell**, associate pastor of Second, Little Rock, and son of **Christian Educator Linda LeBron**.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Jesse and Bertha Gonzalez** on the birth of their second grandson, Rhys Eric Gonzalez, on September 27. The proud parents are Jesus Isai and Heather Gonzalez. Jesse is the presbytery evangelist of Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana in Springdale.
- **Mary Shaw**, Youth Director at First, Bentonville, received her Leadership Initiative Certificate in Youth Ministry on September 12 from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.
- **Rev. Kris Crawford** has resigned as pastor of First, Benton and joined her husband Rev. Stan Larson in Shreveport, Louisiana.

### NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

- **First, Conway** is sending Sue Heily to the World Mission Celebration in Cincinnati on October 22-24 to investigate the "sister church partnership discernment process."
- **First, Huntsville** is conducting a diaper drive for their local pregnancy center.
- **First, Pine Bluff** is hearing a series of sermons from October 4 through November 1 on the five development tasks for interim ministry, which include the church's history, identity, new leaders, denominational linkages and a new future.
- **First, Hot Springs** introduced a competition of members' favorite casseroles at a recent family night supper.
- **Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village** will send a group to work at rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina during the week of October 24-31.
- **Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian, Fairfield Bay** supports the scholarship programs for Louisville and Austin Theological Seminaries which help people become ministers in the PC(USA).
- **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** will register a team of walkers in the Race for the Cure (fighting breast cancer) on October 17 in honor or memory of 16 church members affected by the disease.
- **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** will recognize their 10 new members at their church picnic on October 25.
- **First, Yellville** collected school supplies for needy students at their September potluck dinner.
- **First, Newport** invited guests to the picnic, games and worship at which Lyon College Pipes and Drums Band assisted at Jacksonport State Park on September 20.

- **First, Little Rock** is offering evening yoga classes through November 17 and hosted Gila Syirsky, international peace activist, who spoke during worship on September 20
- **Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana** will observe its third anniversary on Sunday, October 18 with a thanksgiving service at Noon and luncheon at 1:30 p.m.
- Presbyterian Women of **First, Clarksville** will host a Tablerama to support missions on October 23-24. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5). Tablerama is a myriad of tables creatively decorated with heirloom china, silver, and keepsakes.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 4 by assembling fabrics and breads from around the world.
- **First, Gurdon** welcomed Interim General Presbyter Rev. Sallie Watson on September 29 for dinner and to lead elder training.
- **Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** offers a regular support meeting for family members and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.
- **Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville**, one of several churches in the presbytery to hold October services to ask God's blessings on animals, allowed people to either bring their animals or bring photos or just their pet's names.
- **First, Walnut Ridge** will host youngsters from the local children's shelters at their Halloween costume party on the afternoon of October 31.
- **Barr Memorial, Norman** is planning a Christmas program using English and Spanish languages and including the Hispanic children who worship in the building on Saturday and Monday nights.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** hosted a Christian Education Seminar October 2 & 3. Dr. David Jensen of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary led the seminar on the topic, "Why John Calvin Matters Today". Dr. Jensen concluded his presentation during the Sunday morning worship service.
- **United Campus Ministry Center, Fayetteville** will host a homecoming pre-game cookout two hours before kickoff on Saturday, October 31. Call 479.442.8041 for details.

#### THE CHURCH CONNECTIONAL

- **West End Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, both in Arkadelphia**, joined together for worship on October 4, World Communion Sunday.
- **Holiday Island Presbyterian and First, Eureka Springs**, held a joint program in September to hear about the latter's history from the parish's pastor Rev. Clare Kelley.

#### NEWS OF OUR CLUSTERS

- **Cluster VI** (west central Arkansas) met on September 10 and elected Rev. Ron Jones as their representative to General Council to fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2010. Rev. Jones is Stated Supply at First, Ozark.

#### NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS

- Congratulations to **Rev. Jimmie Thames and wife Ailene** of Rogers on the birth of a great granddaughter, Ella Claire Thames, on September 3 in Bentonville. Parents are Jonathan and Jessica Thames and grandparents are Jeff and Angela Thames.
- Christian sympathy is extended to **Rev. Bob Hyatt** on the death of his wife Patricia on September 22. A memorial service was held on September 26 at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith. Rev. Hyatt, honorably retired, joined the Presbytery at the October 8-9 meeting at Westminster, Hot Springs.
- **Rev. Dave King** has completed his work as Interim Pastor of First Christian, Little Rock and is now Development Director of The Salvation Army in Arkansas.

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### Ideas of the Month

**First, Jacksonville** collected hand sanitizer and boxes of tissue to give to area schools to combat the H1N1 flu this fall.

**First, Jonesboro** has started distributing a "visitors guide" brochure in each Sunday worship bulletin to encourage each member to deliver the brochure to a neighbor, co-worker, friend, or acquaintance who is

new in town or not already a member of a church.

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## Gulf Coast Mission Trip

by [Susie Wright](#)



A total of 24 participants representing two presbyteries, two states and 12 churches gathered in Port Neches, Texas on September 20-26 to work on damage left from Hurricane Ike. The group was divided among four homes in the Beaumont area. Each home had its own unique needs which were addressed by the individual groups.

The range of work included painting (outside and inside), hanging/finishing sheet rock, repairing siding, replacing tile flooring, hanging light fixtures and laying carpet. This trip was sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.



## Kirkin' o' the Tartans

by [Lon Hardin](#)



Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village hosted a Kirkin' o' the Tartans on Sunday, September 27. Students from Lyon College, Batesville provided bagpipes and drums.

## Validated Ministry - Rev. David Gill

by [Brian Perry](#), Communications Director



Rev. David Gill serves as Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, the camp and conference center that serves the Presbytery of Arkansas and beyond. He is a graduate of Miami University and Gordon-Conwell Seminary with certification in Rehabilitation Administration from DePaul University. David was called as Executive Director at Ferncliff in 1997 after having spent 12 years working in various capacities with Heifer International. He served as President of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association from 2006-2008.

Ferncliff was started in 1937 "for benefit of Arkansas Presbyterians" who had no camp and retreat center of their own. Ferncliff holds true to that mission today but has also become a place known for outreach, creative collaboration and dedicated to making a positive impact on the world.

In David's tenure as Executive Director Ferncliff has:

- Offered a series of healing camps for children of the Jonesboro and other sites of school shooting including Paducah, Columbine, Bosnia and New York City (after 9/11).

- Has offered camps for special groups like foster children, children of parents in prison, day camps for homeless children, military families, evacuees, etc.
- Generated significant capital campaign funds resulting in a \$2.5 million new youth camp that opened in the summer of 2005.
- Received a \$200,000 grant in 2005 from Presbyterian Women and \$85,000 from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to build a national Disaster Assistance Center where churches from around the country send Church World Service Gift-of-the-Heart kits for processing and reshipping.
- Been selected, in 2009, to house "Solar Under the Sun," a Synod of the Sun mission outreach that partners with "Living Waters for the World" to engage in joint projects of water purification systems, powered by solar energy. A Solar Mission Training center will be built at Ferncliff in 2010.



David states "I told the search committee (who chose him as camp director) that if they were looking for a hotel manager to run the place, I wasn't their person, but that if they were interested in mission, outreach and working collaboratively with others, I was very interested. I'm glad they were interested. We continue to be blessed with a supportive Presbytery and local churches. We have accomplished much, but are more excited about the future than about the past."

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## It's Never Too Late to Put in Your 2 Cents

by [Judy Steen](#)

It's never too late to feed someone who is hungry. If your congregation has not started a Cents-Ability program this year, now is the time. As we prepare for the harvest and Thanksgiving season, the Cents-Ability program is a great commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat."

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Two-cents-a-meal equals \$21.90 for a calendar year. These small acts of faithfulness can add up. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.

The recipients of Cents-Ability donations are shared equally internationally, nationally and locally. The Presbytery of Arkansas recipients for 2009 are: Local: *Care and Share Food Pantry in Harrison*; National: *PC(USA) Domestic Hunger Relief*; and International: *PC(USA)-Joining Hands*. These recipients have been chosen by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.

These are your treasures - but God's Church. Give now, together we can help.

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## H1N1 Resource for Congregations

Presbytery's Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response has posted the resource "Guidance for Congregations: H1N1 Virus" on the Presbytery web site. Follow this [link](#).

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## Stewardship: Mutual Service of the Lord

by [Rev. Breck Castleman](#)

Church budgets are usually set to meet the weekly and monthly costs of a church's operation. Operating

funds come primarily from the tithes and offerings of church members. Extra, unexpected needs or opportunities can remain unaddressed because funds are not available to cover non-budgeted expenses.

This is where presbytery through its Committee on Congregational Care and Development can be an important resource for a small congregation. CC&D is able to provide grants to help fund projects and address needs that a church cannot cover through its regular giving.

One example of this is a matching grant given to the West Fork Presbyterian Church in northwest Arkansas. The church building is a three-level structure: the basement/fellowship hall, the sanctuary and an upstairs area. The heating and cooling system was composed of two furnaces and two air conditioning units running off of a single thermostat. In order to heat or cool one part of the building, the whole structure had to be heated or cooled. That was an unnecessary cost and a drain on the church's finances.

The matching grant from presbytery made possible a new two-unit system which allowed the basement/fellowship hall to be heated separately from the sanctuary and upstairs portion. The new system is much more efficient and can be programmed to come on and shut off by itself. This means less wasted energy and reduced utility bills. Commissioned Lay Pastor at West Fork Bill Brown says, "It has cut our energy costs tremendously."

This is a story about stewardship. There is the stewardship of individual congregations in support of presbytery. There is the stewardship of presbytery in supporting its member churches. There is the stewardship of resources by West Fork Presbyterian which allows it to better serve the Lord.

## Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

by [Pauline Rhodes](#)

September Revenue	\$46,830.04	Year-to-Date Actual as of September 30
September Expenses	<u>\$73,274.91</u>	Revenue \$571,370.16
September Net	<u>-\$26,444.87</u>	Expenses \$714,723.52
		Net <u>-\$143,353.36</u>



However, we do have good news! If every church caught up on its pledge we would have an increase in revenue of \$199,134 hence leaving the deficit in the dust....

Please make every effort to fulfill your pledge for 2009.

## IGP Itinerary

IGP Sallie Watson will be in the following settings between now and the next Banner publication:

- October 15 - Solar Committee, Ferncliff
- October 17 - Preach for Nancy Taylor's installation as pastor of First, Mountain Home
- October 18 - Preach at First, Benton
- October 29 - Orientation for new clergy, CLPs and educators, Presbytery Office, Little Rock
- November 1 - Preach at First, Fort Smith
- November 3 - Committee Moderators training, Presbytery Office, Little Rock
- November 5-6 - Synod Meeting

## Retreat for Bereaved Parents

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is offering "Mapping Our Journeys: A Safe Place" on November 13-15 for parents who have lost a child to illness, accident, violence or suicide. The leadership team is a mix of bereaved parents and professionals who care for them. The goal is to provide a spiritual environment where participants feel free to talk about their bereavement, share what helped them to cope and discuss continuing needs. Visit [www.moranch.com](http://www.moranch.com) for details and share the news with local churches.

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### Church Relations Coordinator Needed

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Children's Home is seeking a Church Relations Coordinator to manage an active church relations program throughout the constituency served by Vera Lloyd. Primary responsibilities include speaking to Presbyterian congregations, PW groups and others in order to increase awareness, participation and financial support of Vera Lloyd, and coordinating church and volunteer group activities.

The successful candidate will possess strong interpersonal and communication skills, have demonstrated successful experience working with a variety of groups and people; must be detail oriented and possess a professional demeanor and appearance. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the Presbyterian Church USA is required.

Some overnight and weekend work is required and a valid driver's license. Prefer a candidate with a bachelor's degree. This position is part time and will work out of the Little Rock office. The position is available immediately. To apply, email cover letter with resume, salary requirements and 3 references to [brendalong@veralloyd.org](mailto:brendalong@veralloyd.org). EEO

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### Director of Christian Education Position Open

First, Springdale is seeking a part-time (20-30 hours a week) Director of Christian Education. Send inquiries to CE Director Search, c/o First Presbyterian, 100 South Gutensohn Road, Springdale, AR 72762 or phone 479-751.2040.

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### Cluster Meetings for Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women

by [Mary Beth Lysobey](#), Moderator, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team



September was a busy month for Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women as seven clusters hosted events. Pictured at the Cluster IV meeting are Rose Ann Scheiderer, Cluster IV Representative on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson, and Mary Beth Lysobey, Moderator, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team.



Attendees at the Cluster V Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering were given a special opportunity to purchase items from the "Bargain Box" at First, Hot Springs. Approximately \$280 was raised for Garland County benevolent ministries.




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## Christ's Small Church: Deep and Wide

*Small Church Retreat and Workshops*

Thursday-Saturday

March 4-6, 2010

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Philip Lotspeich

Coordinator for Church Growth, PC(USA)

More information is available [here](#).

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## Educators, Leaders of Children and Youth Invited to Retreat

by [NiAnn Thompson](#)

The annual Fall Retreat for Christian Educators, Children's Ministry Leaders and Youth Directors is set for the afternoon of October 29-30 at the lake home of Jeannie Ford in Hot Springs. This year the event will immediately follow the Orientation for New Church Professionals on October 29 at the Presbytery office.

Retired, active and new church staff members who concentrate on Christian Education are invited to this gathering for networking, relaxation and learning. APCE Educator of the Year Linda LeBron of Little Rock will lead discussion on the future of Christian Education and Celebrating Family Milestones; Interim General Presbyter Sallie Watson, herself a Certified Christian Educator, will speak of Teaching as the Third Sacrament; Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson will show online resources and all participants will bring a best practice model for the idea exchange. This retreat is funded by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture. For more information, contact Resourcing Director NiAnn Thompson at 501.663.2424 or email [niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)

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### RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, AR 72227-6201

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

[NiAnn Thompson](#), Director

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



It's been a great month for **RAVE REVIEWS** of items from YOUR Resource Center! Here's a sampling of endorsements by leaders in our congregations.

- Campus Minister Susan Rose (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville) reminds us that the book

**"Presbyterian Beliefs: A Brief Introduction"** by Donald McKim (Acc. #BK8123) is a great resource for officer training and new member classes.

- Rev. David Dyer, First, Jacksonville and one of the presbytery's premier historians, gives the history sections of **"Invitation to Romans"** (Acc. #DVD9179) an "A+." This eight-week study includes a participant's guide, leader guide and two approaches via DVD, a narrative presentation of the assigned readings and the excellent historical review of Romans' impact on history.

- Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk and co-pastor of Central, Fort Smith, judged the classic **"Standard Bible Study Video of Joshua-Judges"** (Acc. #VC2165) as a resource "with excellent material. I kept using parts of it for (different) groups!" Since Joshua is the subject of the Presbyterian Women's Horizons study this year, the video is particularly timely.

- Elder Mark Hagemeyer, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, raves that The Teaching Company's Great Courses have had "life-changing" effects on the way he studies and learns. In YOUR Resource Center are the following DVDs in the series: **"The Old Testament"** (Acc. #DVD8937 and 8938), **"Jesus and the Gospels"** (Acc. #DVD8939-8941), **"Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and Battles over Authentication"** (Acc. #DVD8945) and the newest **"The Story of the Bible"** (Acc. #DVD9264), a 24-part DVD study of the formation of the Bible, complete with lecture transcript and guidebook.

Participants in my workshop on "What Not to Teach" before the recent Presbytery meeting used several forms in Resource Center books by Donald Griggs to measure resources against the needs and schedules of their congregations.

**Did you receive your church's copy of the 4-minute DVD on stewardship given out at the October 8-9 meeting of the Presbytery at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs? It is perfect for Sessions and committees to view as well as all-church groups.**

#### **FALL RESOURCES (For use between now and the start of Advent on November 29)**

-- Youth Groups will enjoy five **"Revolution 2"** DVDs (Acc. #DVD9256-9260) on such topics as "Home Hurts," "Smart Dating," "Why Me?" "One Decision Away," "and "The Least of These."

-- Deacons, caregivers and family members may be enriched and supported by **"Plain Talk About Alzheimer's Disease"** (Acc. #DVD9255).

-- Any group that interacts with people beyond the church house could learn from the six session study responding to culture's objections to Christianity entitled **"They Like Jesus but Not the Church"** (Acc. #DVD9262).

#### **IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT!**

Check with YOUR Resource Center for suggestions on children's Christmas plays to prepare as a gift to the congregation or a relevant study for Sunday mornings, such as **"Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?"** (DVD and book), adult studies **"What Do You Want for Christmas"** by James W. Moore or **"The Best Songs Come at Night"** by J. Ellsworth Kalas. A novel idea to celebrate the season is the **"Advent Calendar on DVD: A Christmas Countdown for December"** (Acc. #DVD8936) or **"Advent Calendar on DVD 2: Christmas Carols Edition"** (Acc. #DVD9148). Both contain 25 mini-documentaries (between 3 and 4 minutes) on stories behind holiday traditions on the former or holiday carols on the latter.

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#### [PRESBYTERY CALENDAR](#)

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#### PRESBYTERY STAFF:

Interim General Presbyter [SALLIE M. WATSON](#)

Associate General Presbyter [JOAN ERICKSON](#)

Resourcing Director & Assistant Stated Clerk [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Presbytery & Financial Administrator [PAULINE RHODES](#)

Communications Director [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHERINE ULRICH](#)  
Treasurer J. WALLS MCCRARY  
Presbytery Evangelist JESSE GONZALEZ  
Moderator of Presbytery CLAIRE RHODES  
Vice Moderator of Presbytery DEBRA CARL FREEMAN  
Moderator of General Council JACKSON FARROW JR.

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. As such our mission is to ***Inspire, challenge and help our congregations, agencies, ministers and leaders to fulfill their call to service as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.***

We are composed of over 15,000 Presbyterians gathered in 90 congregations, two new church developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>

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