



January 2013

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

## In this issue:

(Click on the link below to jump directly to an article, or scroll/page down to read the entire Banner from beginning to end)

[Bill Galbraith: "Tithing, a Discipline in Gratitude"](#)

[Susie Carter Wiggins Ordained](#)

[Notice to Churches Regarding Documentation of Donations](#)

[Church Employment Opportunities in the Presbytery](#)

[University of the Ozarks to Host February Presbytery Meeting](#)

[Retired Minister William Ford Dies](#)

[Disaster Assistance Helpful Hint](#)

[News of Our People and Our Congregations](#)

[News for Presbytery Youth](#)

[Presbytery College Students at Montreat's College Conference](#)

[Presbyterian Pilgrimage Offers Scholarships, and a Letter From a Participant](#)

[January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month](#)

[Winter Weather Reminder \(Regarding Presbytery Office\)](#)

[Presbytery Prayer List](#)

[Link to Presbyterian Women Newsletter](#)

[NiAnn Thompson: Resource Center News](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

## **Tithing, a Discipline in Gratitude**

One of the best decisions this Presbytery made some years ago was to be a tithing presbytery. The discipline has been good for us and has expanded our capacity to extend the Good News of the Gospel to others.

It has been the Presbytery of Arkansas' practice to tithe whatever gifts it receives to the mission of the whole Presbyterian Church (USA). 10% of what is received in general mission giving from our 88 congregations is passed on. In this way, we, with other Presbyterians, help ensure mission beyond our communities and state. Your gifts to the Presbytery of Arkansas help fund almost 200

international mission workers who are directly involved in such efforts as world-wide educational, evangelical, health, justice and self-development ministries along with assistance after disasters, such as the recent devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Your gifts made possible spiritual support through PDA staff presence following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The 10% that is used beyond the Presbytery of Arkansas helps underwrite events through the Synod of the Sun such as the nationally known Synod Youth Workshop at Tulsa University and the Youth Triennium to take place at Purdue University next summer. Our 10% helps support a national staff which assists us in leadership development, the creation of new worshiping communities and with pastoral searches and wrestling through polity matters which affect our congregations as well as in other ways to strengthen congregations for ministry.

Because the biblical principle of tithing is clear, we invite each congregation of the Presbytery to tithe 10% of the gifts received each year for the work of the Presbytery and beyond. The Presbytery has attempted to set the pattern for what we encourage of every church and member. As we continue to grow in gratitude, our giving will naturally follow.

The words of the Apostle commending the churches of Macedonia still challenge us to show similar extravagant generosity. "...in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part. For they gave according to their means...and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part..." (Second Corinthians 8:2-4)

Gratefully yours,

*Bill*

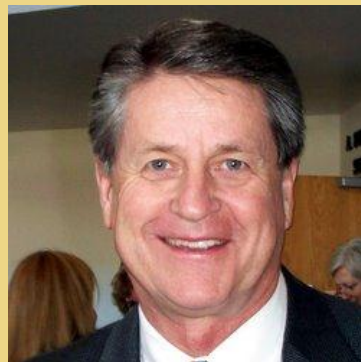
General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

January

17-18 Out of Office

24-25 Solar Under the Sun Directors Planning Meeting, Ferncliff

27 Spring River Presbyterian Church, Hardy, Congregational Meeting



February

03 Worship, Marianna

04 Session Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Newport

15-16 Presbytery Meeting, University of the Ozarks, Clarksville

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## Susie Carter Wiggins Ordained to Chaplaincy Ministry at Baptist Health Medical Center



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas ordained Susie Carter Wiggins on Sunday, December 9th. She will serve as Chaplain of Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock, AR.

Front row (left to right): Elder Wilma Lewis, Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Rev. Susie Carter Wiggins, Elder Betty Glenn, Elder Twig Satterfield.

Back row (left to right): Rev. Jim Freeman, Rev. David Dyer, Rev. Debbie Freeman, Rev. Michael Kuner, Elder Howard Turney, Rev. Bill Branch.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## **Notice to Church Treasurers, Financial Secretaries and Pastors**

### Regarding Acknowledgment of Gifts

On the matter of charitable deductions, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations require that donations of \$250.00 (two- hundred fifty) or more to charitable institutions, such as churches, be acknowledged in a statement that includes the following wording: ***"No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution other than intangible religious benefits."***

In 2012, the Tax Court in Durden, TC Memo.2012-140 made a ruling which indicates the critical importance of proper acknowledgment of contributions. In the Durden case, a couple made regular gifts of \$250.00, or more, to their church. The couple had the canceled checks for each of these contributions. However, the acknowledgment from the church failed to state that no goods or services were given in exchange for the contributions. The IRS denied the couple their charitable deduction because of the faulty acknowledgment by the church. Subsequently, the couple received a letter from the church saying that they received no benefits for their contributions. Unfortunately, this acknowledgment was disallowed in that it was not provided in a timely fashion. The valid acknowledgment of a contribution for which no goods or services were provided must be in the hands of the contributor/s prior to filing a tax return.

In your acknowledgments of contributions of \$250.00, or greater, please ensure that the statement, ***"No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution other than intangible religious benefits,"*** is included. Also include the church's name, address, amount of the contribution, the year the contributions were received and the date the statement was issued.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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## **Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery**

**Choir Director** -- First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas, seeks a choir director for Wednesdays and Sundays. A job description and an application form are available by contacting the church at 870-741-2464 or [jane@fpcharrison.org](mailto:jane@fpcharrison.org).

**Director of Children's Ministry** -- First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville. Part-time position, 20 hours per week. Committed. Experienced. Christian. Dynamic Children's Leader. Questions about the position contact Teaching Elder Kris Crawford, Interim Pastor, (479) 273-5450. Please send resumes to Ruling Elder Ed Carson at [ed.carson5@gmail.com](mailto:ed.carson5@gmail.com) or mail to: Ed Carson @ First Presbyterian Church, 901 Northeast 'J' Street, Bentonville, AR 72712.

[Back to the top of this email](#)



## UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS, CLARKSVILLE TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

On Friday, February 15, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 122nd stated meeting at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville. Pre-presbytery workshops scheduled for Friday afternoon follow two timelines: 2:30-5:30 p.m., Reformed Theology and Preaching, for commissioned ruling elders, graduates of the lay academy and interested teaching and ruling elders, led by Rev. Dr. Phil Butin; and 3:30-5:30 p.m., Annual Clerk and Moderator of Session Training, led by Rev. Clare Kelley and Glory to God: the new Presbyterian Hymnal, led by members of Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Registration beginning at 2:30 p.m. and concurrent workshops will be held in the new Rogers Conference Center on campus. Gavel falls at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Munger Chapel with business and worship scheduled for the evening. Outgoing moderator Rev. David Dyer will preach and Ruling Elder Sherée Niece of Clarksville will be installed as moderator for 2013. Youth Advisory Delegates will be special guests of the presbytery. Business continues at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 in Rogers Center. Rev. Clare Kelley of Holiday Island will be installed as vice moderator. An Order of the Day is set for 10 a.m. to vote on proposed amendments to the Book of Order. Highlights of the meeting include welcoming new ministers, voting on the 2013 budget and Standing Rules, commissioning a ruling elder, annual state of the presbytery report, and worship with communion. Worship offering will benefit the Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship at UofO, and the Ingathering items requested (non-perishable foods and toiletries) will be given to Interfaith Service Network of Johnson County. The read-ahead packets for this presbytery meeting will be posted by January 26.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## Retired Minister Dies

Word has reached the presbytery staff of the death on June 17 of **Rev. William Warner Ford** of Helena, 79, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. A native of Memphis, Ford graduated from Rhodes

College in Memphis and Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained in Memphis in 1959 and pastored churches in TN, AL, PA, KY, MS, was instrumental in the civil rights movement in the South and worked on liturgical renewal and inter-church relations. Ford came to this presbytery as pastor of First, Marianna in 1991 and later served as stated supply for Cleburne Avenue Presbyterian, West Helena. He retired in 1997, having served on presbytery candidates committees and Arkansas' Committee on Ministry.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years Diana, and two children--daughter Elizabeth, and son William Warner Ford III.

[Back to the top of this email](#)



## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a mission program of PC(USA)

**Q: It's 10 o'clock on the morning after a storm or an earthquake. Can you locate your church members, especially the vulnerable ones? If members of your church are displaced from their homes, how will you know if they are dead or alive, injured or unhurt? How will you be able to contact them?**

**A:** Every congregation needs multiple ways to contact members. That means, for cases of displacement, you need contact information for each member's likely destination (relatives? friends?). Hurricane Katrina taught Gulf-area churches and presbyteries this need, but we too need to be ready. Collect that contact information NOW and put it where you can find it at church and also offsite in the hands of key members and staff!

***By thinking these things through now, you may be able to keep an emergency from becoming a disaster.***

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### **PCUSA DOCUMENTARY ON GUN VIOLENCE AVAILABLE for YOUR NBC STATION**

An important Presbyterian Church USA-produced documentary, entitled TRIGGER: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence, is available for showing on your local NBC station. It was produced by the PCUSA as a part of the NBC series, "Horizons of the Spirit". Information about it, including a trailer, is available at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/gunviolence/>

The film was shown on Dec. 30 in Little Rock, but those of you who live elsewhere, please consider requesting that your NBC station air the program before May 31. Information on making a request is available at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/trigger/>

Gun violence affects us all. In December, we were shocked by the violence at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. But we should also be aware that in Little Rock

alone, as of Dec. 20, 43 homicides occurred in 2012.

Trigger lifts up the many long-term effects that gun violence has on a community after the immediate shock of the event, after the TV cameras move on to the next dramatic event.

--**This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. Additional information is available at**

**<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>**

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--**Rev. Jeff Parker** has resigned as pastor of First, Rogers to accept the call as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian, Decatur, AL, Presbytery of North Alabama, effective January 1.

--Congratulations to **Rev. Clare Martin Kelley**, pastor of the Northwest AR Larger Parish (Holiday Island and First, Eureka Springs), on the birth of her third grandchild and first granddaughter, Aurora (Rory) Steadham, born on Sep. 17, 2012 on the American Naval Base outside of Naples, Italy. Her parents are David and Heather Steadham. Clare is vice-moderator-elect of the presbytery.

--**Rev. Laura Fleetwood**, honorably retired, completed service as parish associate at Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista on Dec. 31.

--Congratulations to **Carolyn and Jack Beane** of Hot Springs on the birth of their first great grandchild Lyla Danielle Violett on Dec. 9. Parents are Kimberly Lynn and Samuel Dale Violett. Carolyn is one of two commissioned ruling elders serving at Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman.

--**Brent James** has resigned as organist at First, Dardanelle.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Yellville** furnished supplies for the construction of a ramp for a person in need recently.

--**First, Batesville** began in January a book discussion group which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Their initial "read" is Anne Lamotte's "Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers."

--**Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood** held a service of renewal on Dec. 30 with an agape' meal following.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** young adults will have a film festival in January watching scenes from movies and discussing insights the films offer in faith and life.

--**First, Conway** hosted a reunion of college student members home for the holidays on Dec. 19.

--**First, Newport** plans a Kirkin' O' the Tartans with Lyon College Pipers and Drums on Jan. 27.

--**Mountainburg Presbyterian** and other congregations offered "Blue Christmas" services for healing and wholeness during Advent.

--**First, Pine Bluff** will host Drs. Cindy and Les Morgan, missionaries to Bangladesh,

at a potluck dinner on Jan. 24.

--**First, Van Buren's** newsletter lists homebound members, birthdays and weekly events at the church.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** began third Thursday evening Bible study on Jan. 10.

--**First, Morrilton's** newsletter lists leaders and communion servers for future services and worship attendance and memorials given.

--**Wynne Presbyterian's Presbyterian Women** is collecting through Jan. 27 items for the Gift of the Hearts Kits.

--**Pulaski Heights, Little Rock** began its 100th year Jan. 1 and will celebrate on Nov. 3 at a special worship service.

--**Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** will host winter camp for children on Jan. 27 as a combined church activity for **First, Fort Smith; First, Van Buren** and a local Lutheran church.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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## **Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News** **Youth at Presbytery: "Listen for the Voice!"**

An event for leaders in your congregation who are 10th, 11th, or 12th graders  
February 15-16, 2013  
University of the Ozarks  
Clarksville, AR  
\$35  
Registrations are due February 1.

An information packet and registration form have been mailed to every church and can also be found on the Presbytery website at [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx).

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### **Registration deadlines for Youth Summer Trips -- February 1, 2013!!**

The Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team sponsors several trips each summer for Jr. High and Sr. High youth. Youth from churches all around the Presbytery are invited to attend! You can find detailed information about each of the three trips below, as well as registration forms, on the Presbytery website at [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx).

Space on each of the trips is limited, so please get your registration forms in early! If you have questions, please contact Britton Varn at [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org).



**Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch**  
(in the Texas Hill Country near Hunt, TX)  
July 6-11, 2013  
Current 6th-8th graders  
\$560

<http://www.moranch.com/index.php?c=12&sn=123&conf=14>

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium**  
Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)  
July 15-20, 2013  
Current 8th-12th graders  
\$640

[www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

**Montreat Youth Conference**  
Montreat, NC  
July 20-27, 2013  
Current 8th-12th graders  
\$750

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2013-youth-conferences-at-montreat>

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**Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery?**  
**"Like" us on Facebook!**  
Search

**PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry**

on Facebook,

or go to

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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**Arkansas Presbytery College Students At Montreat College Conference**



When do college students rearrange their schedules for faith formation? When do they run to worship, wait anxiously for the doors of the sanctuary to open, then dash to sit in the front pews? This was our experience at Montreat College Conference January 2nd-5th. We took 22 students from the University of Arkansas, Hendrix College, University of Central Arkansas, Mizzou, University of Tulsa, Texas A&M and the University of Texas to experience three full days of worship, keynotes, small group, recreation and fellowship. We are already looking forward to next year!

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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### **Presbyterian Pilgrimage Offers Scholarships**

[Click Here to Read an Encouraging Letter about Pilgrimage](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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### **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

January 11th was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking, which is modern day slavery, refers

to men, women, boys, and girls who are being trafficked for forced labor or for the sex trade both in the United States and around the world. The PCUSA website has information on human trafficking and worship resources you can download.

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/human-trafficking/)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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### Winter Weather Reminder

A reminder: When Little Rock Schools close for winter weather, the presbytery office closes, also.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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### Prayer List for Congregations -- 2013 can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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[Click here for the latest PW newsletter.](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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### [Resource Center News](#)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**START THE NEW YEAR WITH A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION!**

**Check out these DVD/book studies for winter or Lenten study**



**"The Apostles' Creed: A look at its origin and its relevance to our lives today"** (Acc. #DVD9678) two-hour DVD looks at the power and importance of the Creed, featuring Dr. N.T. Wright, Dr. Martin Marty, Rev. Richard Bewes and others, tracing the origin of the Apostles' Creed, its historical context, and each phrase of the Creed for relevance and application today.

**"Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World"** (Acc. #DVD/BK9688) offers six sessions for individuals, Sunday School classes, small groups, and campus ministries on how to view our faith and personal ministry in a culture of simultaneous connection and isolation.

**"Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer's: An Emotional Journey"** (Acc. #DVD/BK9689) is divided into 12 segments and offers insight, hope and understanding for anyone who cares for a person struggling with this disease that afflicts more than 30 million people.

**"Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace"** (Acc. #DVD/BK9696) presents a three-part print and DVD study to help Presbyterians understand the "facts on the ground" and work toward the goal of a just peace in Israel/Palestine.

**"Great World Religions"** (Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism) (Acc.

#DVD/BK9591 thru 9595) introduces these five historic faiths in 12 lectures each plus a course

guidebook on each.

**"A Place at the Table: 40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor"** (Acc. #DVD/BK9644) contains six sessions of self-examination, discipline, and renewed focus on Jesus and suggests eating like the poor for 40 days and donating the money saved to a charity or project benefiting poor people. See us for Vacation Bible School exam kits free to takers from Standard, Group, Abingdon and Cokesbury!

**REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG!** Just go to the [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org) website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple or advanced search for just the right item.

*(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)*

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [SHEREE NIECE](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [DAVID DYER](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)



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. Our vision is **to make visible the body of Christ** (Acts II).

We are composed of over 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, 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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