

From: Presbytery of Arkansas <kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org>

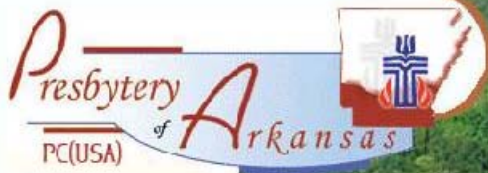
Subject: The Banner

Reply: kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org

April 2012 -- Revised

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"The Eighth Inning"

Before FedEx Park was built for the University of Memphis Tigers' baseball team, before the last 50 years had passed and before 2,200 baseball games had been played, there was Stan Bronson.

Saturday, two weeks ago, the Tigers hosted the Rice Owls in a Conference USA series. Not having previously been to FedEx Park, it was a pleasant surprise to find a small but well-kept stadium remodeled a few years back. More striking than the handsome red brick façade of the diamond, however, was the first person to greet attendees - Stan



Bronson. At a plain folding table on the concrete concourse outside the third base fence, Stan sat with a stack of Memphis Tigers programs. "Each one gets one," Stan let it be known in a voice at first hard to comprehend in its garbled gruffness but, then, abundantly clear. Everyone who came into the stadium that Saturday could get one of Stan's programs, free of charge. In fact, Stan insisted. "Here," he said, thrusting a program in his awkwardly gripping hand, "Everyone gets one." When one of the programs slipped from his fingers and blew down the walk, Stan was quick to head after it. He purposefully rose and moved with a pronounced, uneven gait tracking down the errant line-up as if reclaiming a rare document. Some might say, "Stan is not quite right." True, if speaking distinctly and walking without a limp makes anyone, "right." When the eighth inning rolled around, Stan had left his card table station. There he was, poised at the first-base dugout, next to the young Tigers in their white, baby-blue trimmed uniforms. The announcer began, "Ladies and gentlemen..." as Stan hobbled toward home plate where he stood facing the crowd. The press box voice continued, "...please welcome the world's longest serving batboy, Stan Bronson." For over fifty years and more than 2,200 games, Stan has been, "the Man," for the Memphis Tigers. He has served his team for half a century and retirement wasn't hinted. At home plate, Stan extended his hat toward the fans thanking them for coming. Applause poured from the stands onto the field and Stan's smile lit up even that already brilliant Saturday. For loyal servants, like Stan, whose gifts help us enjoy simple pleasures as on a fresh spring afternoon in Memphis, thanks be to God. Might all share the delight of such eighth innings.

Grace always,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments in April

12-15 Mo Ranch Board of Trustees; Hunt, Texas

17-19 Board of Pensions Regional Benefits Conference; Arlington, Texas

19-20 Synod Convocation; Irving, Texas

22 First Presbyterian, Harrison -- Fifth Anniversary of Building Celebration

22-23 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals Retreat, Ferncliff

23-27 Theological Education Fund Network Meeting; Dubuque, Iowa

28 General Committee, Conway

Request from Your Presbytery Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

Ferncliff's supply of hygiene kit supplies has gotten low. For two reasons, that's a problem: 1) recent storms and the threat of more as springtime progresses mean that people displaced by storms will need personal supplies and 2) the summer camping season comes very soon. An important part of kids' camp experience is assembling kits, and hygiene kits are the simplest to put together.

Supplies for Hygiene Kits are the following:

Hand towels measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)

Washcloths

Wide-tooth combs

Nail clippers

Bars of soap (bath size in wrapper)

Toothbrushes (in original packaging)

Standard size Band-Aids®

We also need one-gallon plastic bags with a zipper closure. Please do not add toothpaste. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Your including processing/Shipping Money, at \$2 per Kit, would be icing on the cake.

We thank you for supporting Ferncliff and the many people whom Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance serve together.

The Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

TPF CFO Client Conference * June 20, 2012

This event is for CFOs, Controllers, Finance/Operational Officers and
Church Treasurers.

For more information log onto www.tpf.org/events

or contact TPF directly at (800)955-3155 or (214)522-3155

Annual Retreat for Teaching Elders, Educators and
Commissioned Ruling Elders

Final Date to Register: April 16, 2012

4 PM Sunday, April 22, through 12 Noon Tuesday, April 24,
2012

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

Rekindling the Stories' Fire: The Art of Storytelling for Preaching

presented by Richard F. Ward, Ph. D.

Fred B. Craddock Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship Director of Denominational Formation
(United Church of Christ) Phillips Theological Seminary.

Sessions:

The Storyteller's Journey
I Love to Tell the Story -- But Is Anyone Listening?
Interpreting the Bible Through Storytelling
What Shape is Narrative Preaching In?
Creating Stories as Thank Offerings

Cost:

\$220 per person, double occupancy, \$225 single occupancy, Commuter fee: \$140 (includes lodging
April 22 and 23 and meals from Sunday night through Tuesday noon.)

[For the registration form, click here.](#) (Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the
"Ctrl" key while you click this link to reach the linked document).

"Message of Hope"

2012 Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

Saturday, April 28, 2012

9:00 AM Registration * Mission Displays * Refreshments

10:00 AM Worship * 11:00 AM Business Meeting * 11:15 AM Keynote Address

Lunch 12:30 PM followed by installation of new officers

Worship Leader: The Reverend Nancy Benson-Nicol

Teaching Elder, Chaplain at the University of the Ozarks

and author of the 2012-13 *Horizons* Bible study

Keynote Speaker: Karene Jones

A Glimpse of God's World -- PW Global Exchange

--Meeting and Getting to Know the Christian Women in India and Their Issues--

Lunch: \$8.50 -- Reservations should be received by April 20th. E-mail list of NAMES and
Church to: Cissy Rose cissy.rosepw@gmail.com or call 479-785-1120 or mail to 2200 S T
Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Pay luncheon fee at the door.

Nursery Provided: Reservations for childcare must be received prior to April 20th. Please
include child(ren)'s name(s) and age(s) with your registration. Please bring a sack lunch for
your child(ren).

Cluster Mission Displays: Each Cluster will display a tri-fold poster identifying missions

supported by the PWs in their Cluster -- so PWs, get your info to your cluster leader!
Greater Mission: An offering will be taken to support the Ladies Society of Chiapas, Mexico. These funds will help to pay the salary of a missionary leader for the 13 Ladies Societies of Chiapas, Mexico.

Plus Cokesbury Book Store Selections!

Bring if You Can: Any of the following items for the Hygiene Kits, which will be put together at Ferncliff during summer camps: hand towels (approx. 16"x28"), washcloths, wide tooth combs, nail clippers, bath-sized bars of soap in wrappers, toothbrushes in original packaging, standard size Band-Aids, 1 gallon plastic bags with zip closure. Also \$\$ for shipping is greatly appreciated!!!

Driving Directions: Turn in the main gate to Hot Springs Village from Highway 7. They will be expecting you. Tell them you are attending the event at Kirk in the Pines. You will be on Desoto, stay on this road for about 7 miles. Turn right off of Desoto onto Balearic Road. In .6 miles turn right onto Asturias Dr. Go .8 miles and find the church at 275 Asturias Dr. Parking is in the second lot you will come to. (Note: sometimes a GPS will send you to the back gate -- do not go there, you cannot get in!).

Overnight Lodging: The Hot Springs Village Inn, 4429 N. Hwy 7, is located less than a mile outside the main gate of Hot Springs Village -- somewhat behind Cranford's Grocery Store. The room there will be from \$79.98 to \$85.72/night depending if we have at least 8 reservations. Phone: 501-922-9600.

Looking Ahead:

PW 2012-13 Horizons Bible Study Overview
by author, Reverend Nancy Benson-Nicol
August 2, 2012 -- University of the Ozarks -- 10:30-2:30

Growing Personal Stewardship

Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts

Mark Your Calendar

TPF's Conference: GPS, *Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts*

Texas Presbyterian Foundation is hosting a two-day conference at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church located at 9800 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230.

Wednesday, September 26th from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

Thursday, September 27th from 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m.

Principal Speaker & Conference Leader:

Kathryn Miree

Presbyterian Elder and nationally recognized speaker on Estate & Planned Giving

Topics Will Include:

- * From Theory to Practice: Building a Church/Nonprofit Endowment
 - * Planned Giving Fundamentals
 - * Getting Started in Planned Giving
- * Talking to Donors About Endowment and Planned Gifts

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Conference Fee: \$75



People and Church News

News of Our People

--Jen Bluestein has resigned as children's program director at First, Bentonville, effective March 12. She is a candidate for ministry in this presbytery and is attending Phillips Seminary in Tulsa.

--Congratulations to Ruling Elder Sam Highsmith and wife Beth on the birth of a granddaughter Chloe Caird Lee in North Little Rock on March 15 to Kathleen and John Robert Lee of Cabot. Sam, a member at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, is moderator of presbytery's General Committee and 2011 moderator of the presbytery.

--Christian sympathy is extended to Rev. Dr. Karen Akin and husband Doug on the death of her father Nicholas Alex Kokles, Jr. on March 16 in Dallas. Karen is an associate pastor at Second, Little Rock and a former moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

--Congratulations to Rev. John King who has completed 35 years as pastor of First, Prairie Grove.

--Rev. Art Bell and wife Lilly have moved from Bella Vista to Sun City West, AZ. He is an honorably retired minister in the presbytery.

--Prayers are requested for Joe Henderson, husband of Rev. Randi Henderson, who was struck by a car on March 29 in Portland. Randi is pastor of Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville and moderator of the presbytery's Committee on Congregational Care and Development.

--Word has reached the presbytery office of the death of Rev. William H. Tiemann on March 23. A former minister member of the presbytery, he had served churches in TX and AR before retiring on Dec. 31 as parish associate for Davidson College Presbyterian Church, NC.

--Rev. Guy Delaney, honorably retired minister member of the presbytery, has completed his service as interim pastor at First, Little Rock. He is moderator of the Committee on Administration.

--For the past 20+ years, Rev. Daniel Festa (Central PC, Pine Bluff) has attended the International Death, Grief and Bereavement Conference, held at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse. He encourages and invites others from our presbytery to attend this remarkable experience that also happens to be a good continuing education option. If you choose to stay on the campus of the university, it is also a very economical conference. To register or view their brochure, go to:

www.uwlax.edu/conted/dgb/.

News of Our Congregations

--Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville hosted the Good Friday service of tenebrae on April 6 and an Easter egg hunt on the afternoon of April 7.

--Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista set up a Spirituality Room with interactive experiences that changed each week during Lent.

--Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff has organized a new Presbyterian Women's circle that meets on the second Saturday morning of the month over breakfast.

--Second Presbyterian, Little Rock was honored at a Freedom Salute Ceremony at Camp Robinson in March because they provided transportation home over Christmas for local National Guard unit and computer/satellite equipment to allow troops to email and Skype from Iraq.

- First, Hot Springs planned Tuesday night Lenten vespers services and a Lenten choral concert on April 3.
- Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay Men's Club and Presbyterian Women worked as volunteers at Ferncliff Camp March 27-29.
- Mountainburg Presbyterian young people made children's bags filled with fruit drink, cereal bars and protein chips for the Feed My Flock food pantry.
- First, Dardanelle hosts Zumba Gold exercise classes and AA and Al-Anon meetings.
- First, Harrison will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the current church building on April 22.
- First, Conway Covenant Groups Ministry will begin in the fall following training in April and May.
- First, Beebe is in its second year of meeting three times a week to pray in the manner of the Benedictine monks for concerns shared by members through requests deposited in the prayer box, followed by a time for personal meditation or lectio divina study of scripture.
- West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia celebrated Black History Month in February by producing vignettes "Living Legends Making History" to honor four people in the congregation who are making history: Ruling Elders Patricia Wright and LaNoir Leeper, Deacon Ollie Buckley and Commissioned Ruling Elder Kenneth Rhodes.
- First, Malvern has begun a free breakfast for the community on one Saturday each month.

IDEAS OF THE MONTH

- Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock published a "How to Speak Presbyterian" article in their newsletter in recognition of the large percentage of people in congregations who are not long-time Presbyterians.
- Central Presbyterian, Russellville published an article in their newsletter "...to Churches Seeking New Members" which advised in brief not to draw too much attention to worship visitors by singling them out nor overreact and smother visitors, but prepare the greeter to ask visitors if they have questions, spell out everything in the bulletin that a visitor needs to know, and remember their names if they return.

FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

On Saturday, June 2, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 120th stated meeting at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock. A pre-presbytery Q&A for cluster records review teams who will be reading session minutes and registers this summer will be led in Brown Center by Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich. Registration begins at 8:15 in the Welcome Center at Ferncliff and gavel, business and worship will follow at 9:30 in the Christian Activities Building. Lunch is planned in the dining hall, and commissioners are reminded to dress casually and perhaps wear walking shoes though shuttles will be provided. Over lunch a workshop in "Polity for the Smaller Church" will be presented by the Presbytery Academy subcommittee for all interested ruling elders.

Worship offering will be divided between "Stop Hunger Now" which feeds international school children and "Food for Kids backpack program" of AR Rice Depot. In gathering items requested are for Gifts of the Heart hygiene kits for Church World Service, which are assembled by Ferncliff campers: (see list of items in Disaster Committee article above).

Highlights will be the commissioning of vice moderator Sheree Niece, the commissioners to this summer's General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh and the summer camp counselors at Ferncliff.

The read-ahead packet for this presbytery meeting will be posted by May 12.
Focus Groups Look at the Future of Our Synod



Presbytery Moderator Rev. Dr. David Dyer (left) greets Transitional Synod Executive Rev. Gerry Tyer when the latter convened a focus group of presbytery representatives at the Little Rock office on March 15 to consider the priorities and next steps for the Synod of the Sun. Numerous such groups are meeting this year across AR, LA, TX and OK.

Youth Group Visits Presbytery Office



Youth, adult chaperones and First, Yellville pastor Rev. Rita Wilson (far left) stopped at the Little Rock office of the presbytery during their spring break mission trip to central AR on March 22. Some of the young people are graduates of confirmation training, others are still in process and all were quick to show their understanding of their denomination.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2012 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).

Save the Date
Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage
(formerly Cursillo)

April 26-29

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

(Pilgrimage receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Mo-Ranch College Connection

May 14-18

Are you a college student? Do you know any college students?

This summer college students will gather at Mo-Ranch to relax and recharge both in faith and friendship.

Director: Rev. Kendal Land, pastor, First, Arkadelphia

Co-Director: Rev. Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, University of Arkansas

More information can be found [here](#).

Presbyterian Women News

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 document.)

(The PW Coordinating Team receives funding in the Presbytery budget.)

[Resource Center News](#)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

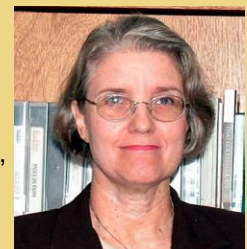
Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Post-Easter greetings to all patrons of the Resource Center and all church members, leaders and congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas.

RAVE REVIEWS

The annual retreat of Christian Educators and Youth/Children's Workers is always a refreshing, uplifting time of fellowship and learning, and March 30 brought this same experience. Here are some of the favorite items that these church professionals use from YOUR Resource Center and recommend you check out:

--A timely resource is "The Hunger Games" study from the PC(USA) to be used with the popular movie, downloadable free <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/youth-book-club-hunger-games-study-part-one/>.



--"The Brick Bible" is a colorful, comic-book look at the Old Testament as told by Legos toys. (Whitney Bordelon, presbytery staff member for youth, says her 8-year-old son loves reading the war stories and now can re-tell them on his own.)

--"Awesome Adventures, Summer" from the PC(USA) is the 13-week children's summer curriculum. The newest version is "God's Amazing Kids" which features the young Isaac, Miriam, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Josiah, and 12-year-old Jesus. Other titles are 'God's People on Mountains and Seas' and "God's People on the Move."

--The following books deal with helping children with special needs: "Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities" (Acc. #BK8215), "Different Members, One Body" (Acc. #BK6770), "Autism and Your Church" (Acc. #BK9487), "A Place Called Acceptance" (Acc. #BK7816)

--Fencliff program director Joel Gill recommends the "Worship Feast" series for youth. In the Resource Center are: "Worship Feast: 100 Awesome Ideas for Postmodern Youth," "Worship Feast: 50 Complete Multisensory Services for Youth" (Acc. #BK8130), "Worship Feast: Liturgical Dance" (Acc. #DVD9178), and others.

--"Praying in Color: Kids' Edition" focuses on one minute a day, drawing with markers or crayons and carrying the visual memories throughout the day.

--Ralph Milton's "Lectionary Story Bible" for Years A, B, and C for congregations that follow the lectionary in preaching and/or teaching will help children reinforce the children's sermon message in their activities by hearing/seeing one or two of the stories from the lections each Sunday.

More suggestions next month!

LIVING/LEARNING BETWEEN EASTER AND PENTECOST

--What about a political study? "Being Reformed" series offers "The Church and Politics," a six-session study on The Bible and Politics, Reformed Politics, Politics American Style, Recovery of a Moral Politics, Political Responsibility and Christian Wisdom, and Transformation Politics with leader's guide. Or try a book study on "That Godless Court? Supreme Court Decisions on Church-State Relationships" (Acc. #BK8697), "The Gospel According to America" (Acc. #BK8620), "Thumpin' It: The use and abuse of the Bible in today's Presidential Politics" (Acc. #BK9123), the PC(USA) study "Lift Every Voice," or the DVD study "Golden Rule Politics" (Acc. #DVD9038).

--Can't miss with Bible study! Rev. Alan Ford, First, Newport endorses the "Book by Book" DVD series, their class having just completed "Genesis" (Acc. #DVD9563).

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

[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 [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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 [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)



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>

[Forward to a Friend](#)



This email was sent to brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org by kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Presbytery of Arkansas | 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd. | Little Rock | AR | 72227