



April 2013

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Proposed Changes to Board of Pensions Medical Plan

Since last October, Board of Pensions Vice President for Church Relations, John McFayden, writes, "the Board of Pensions has been communicating about proposed changes regarding the dues structure of the Medical Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" Our current plan requires employing organizations to pay the full cost for medical coverage with dues being allocated as a percentage of the participating member's effective salary. Two alternatives have been proposed which allow employing organizations to share a specified portion of the medical dues bill with their covered members. A third option maintains



the current medical dues structure but raises the percentage on which the dues are calculated.

McFayden's letter encourages all participants and employing organizations to become familiar with the options currently being discussed. You may wish to consult the Board's dedicated website about the medical dues alternatives by going to, healthcare.pensions.org. On this site, you will be able to access The Bulletin Board, "an article explaining the three medical dues options being considered; a chart, "Considered Dues Models," which provides side-by-side comparisons of the options and an extensive Questions and Answers document." It is possible to use the site's feedback link to communicate with the Board regarding the options being considered. On April 23 and 24, stated clerk, Cathy Ulrich, COM Moderator, Frank LeBlanc, and I will join others in Arlington, Texas, for the Board of Pensions Regional Benefits Consultation. Additional information will be shared following that gathering. Also, our Board of Pensions Regional Representative, Kevin Keaton, will tentatively be with us for the June 1 meeting of the Presbytery at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. At that meeting, Kevin will provide an overview of the changes and be available to respond to questions.

Your partner in ministry,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

April

10-14 Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Spiritual Advisor, Ferncliff

17 Dedication of New Freezer Building, Arkansas Rice Depot

18-20 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees, Hunt, Texas

22 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Gathering, Ferncliff

23-24 Board of Pensions, Regional Benefits Consultation, Arlington, Texas

28 Preach, First Presbyterian, Newport, Retirement of pastor, Alan Ford

29-30 Executive Presbyter Forum, Irving, Texas

May

4 Ferncliff Board of Trustees, Ferncliff

5 Preach, First Presbyterian, Yellville

7 Committee on Ministry, First Presbyterian, Conway

21-22 Synod of the Sun, Irving, Texas

29-30 Vera Lloyd Board of Trustees, Monticello

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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.

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 or mail to: Ed Carson @ First Presbyterian Church, 901 Northeast 'J' Street, Bentonville, AR 72712.

Music Director -- First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville. Searching for a Music Director to lead and direct the organization and implement a comprehensive church music program including: choir, hand bells, vocal and/or instrumental ensembles including drama teams. Assist the pastor in planning congregational services of the church and be responsible for selecting the music along with the pastor. Serve as a leader in the worship services, giving direction to the congregational singing, choir and other phases of worship. Please email resumes to the attention of: administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org.

Youth and College Ministry Director -- First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville. Seeking a young adult to a new, full-time position as Youth and College Ministry Director. Looking for someone with a mature Christian faith consistent with the Reformed tradition, and the warmth and confidence to do direct outreach on school campuses and at the University of Arkansas. The full position announcement is posted on the church's website at www.fupcfay.org under "Leadership" then "Positions Open." You may send resumes to jprice1210@hotmail.com.

Assistant Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas -- Effective January 1, 2014, part-time Assistant Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas. [Click here](#) to view job description. Current Assistant Stated Clerk NiAnn Thompson (niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org) will gladly answer questions about the position she will vacate next year. Stipend offered and mileage reimbursed. Send resumes to Rev. Guy Delaney, moderator of Committee on Administration, at info@presbyteryofarkansas.org for election on Oct. 5.
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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Q: When your church or community has a disaster, who can help you?

A: 9-1-1 is your first call.

You can seek presbytery/PCUSA help by calling Kenneth Rich at the presbytery office, 501/663-2424 x103 or Bill Galbraith, x101. If you cannot reach either one and need immediate assistance, call the Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee chair, James Anderson, 870/613-5127.

You can get community help by reaching your county department of emergency management.

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

--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>

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Revs. David and Patty Schaller** of Horseshoe Bend on the death of David's mother, Mary Emma Kanady Schaller, on March 8 in Fayetteville. She was a member of First United Presbyterian and had resided for the past approximately 20 years at Butterfield Village Retirement Center. A service is being planned for April 27th at Butterfield. David is designated pastor at Faith Presbyterian, Horseshoe Bend and Patty is a chaplain with hospice.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. James Westbrook** and family on the death of his wife Madie on March 5. Rev. Westbrook is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery living in Jasper, AR.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Drew Travis** of First, Conway and **Britton Varn** of the presbytery staff on the death of Drew's mother and Britton's grandmother Jane Travis on April 7th in Amarillo, TX. Services will be held April 19th at First Central Presbyterian Church, Abilene, TX.

--**Sarah Jane Guzman** is the new coordinator of music for the Nine O'Clock Service at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Marc van Bulck** has resigned as youth director at First, Bentonville to pursue ordination to the ministry as pastor of Seville Presbyterian in Seville, Ohio.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Jen Bluestein** and family on the recent death of her brother Rob Bender. Jen is a member of First, Springdale and a candidate for ministry under care of AR Presbytery who will graduate from seminary in May.

--**Rev. and Mrs. Dick Knott** have moved from Benton to Dallas. He is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

--**Lea Whitlock** has resigned as youth director at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Prayers are requested for **Rev. Lee Power** of Fayetteville, who is hospitalized at Specialty Hospital in Dallas. She is a parish associate at First United, Fayetteville; an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery; and a former moderator of the presbytery.

--**Leigh Woodruff Harvey** has completed her service as interim Director of Children's Ministry at First, Bentonville. Ashton Bowser began work there on April 1 as the church administrative assistant.

--Congratulations to Ruling Elder **Al Glover** and wife **Patsy** of Conway on the birth of a grandson, Asher Levon Rubenstein, on March 24. Proud parents are David and Katie Rubenstein.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Bentonville** decorated a cross in their welcome hall with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.

--**First, Conway** will be adding stained glass windows on the Beatitudes and Matthew 5 to their sanctuary.

--**First, Pine Bluff** offered the opportunity for church members to sponsor an additional choir member for the music in worship on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

--Students from Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of the Ozarks led a joint worship service on Feb. 17 for members of **Harmony and First Presbyterian Churches, Clarksville.**

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** launched an "Earth Care" class on April 7 to increase students' awareness of and knowledge about living sustainably and caring for the earth.

--Presbyterian Women from **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted a surprise baby shower for the house parents at Trimble Home on the Vera Lloyd Home campus in Monticello.

--**First, McGehee** for the second year helped host a group of 20 youth and adults from Colorado Springs called "Arkorado" for fellowship, worship, service projects during Holy Week.

--**First, Benton** will welcome a confirmation class of seven members on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

--**First Presbyterian, North Little Rock (Argenta)** has an ongoing partnership with a neighborhood

elementary school that has a large population of children who live below the poverty level.

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Second Presbyterian, Little Rock To Host Presbytery Meeting

On Saturday, June 1, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 123rd stated meeting at the Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. Those people preparing for or carrying out cluster records review this spring and summer will have training before the meeting from Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the gavel falls at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary for worship and business. Ruling Elder Sheree Niece of Clarksville will moderate the meeting. Highlights of the one-day meeting will be a presentation by Dr. Chip Hardwick on marriage, voting on amending the Book of Confessions to include the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism, selecting the presbytery's unified mission emphasis for 2014-2016, recognizing one minister's retirement, examining a candidate for ordination, and possibly other timely discussions. Worship offering will benefit the presbytery's youth trip to Triennium 2013 this summer and establish a reserve fund for youth travel. Ingathering items requested (non-perishable foods) are tentatively designated for Arkansas Rice Depot. Commissioners, please note this will be a full-day meeting with adjournment after 3 p.m.

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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.

RAVE REVIEW

Resource Center board member Ruling Elder Betsy Gillaspy-Williams reports: "First Presbyterian Church, Conway is in the midst of reading **'The Bible in 90 Days'**, a program (endorsed and carried by the RESOURCE CENTER) offered in a variety of churches and small groups across six different denominations. We are more than half through and have found that reading 12 pages a day is not difficult; it just takes commitment. The 30-plus folks highly recommend it as it gives a concise look at the Bible as a whole and a clearer vision of the one God of both the Old and New Testaments."

NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO LOVE THEM

"101 More Great Games for Kids" (Acc.#BK9722)

"Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbor" (Acc.#BK9721)

"One-Minute Bible Stories: New Testament" (Acc.#BK9717)

"Great Tween Get-aways: 8 Retreats for Tweens" (Acc. #BK9698)

"Sharing God's Love in Children's Church" (Acc.#BK9714)

"All-in-One Bible Fun: Favorite Bible Stories" (Acc.#BK9715)

NEW BOOKS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS WHO PARENT AND LEAD THEM

"Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry" (Acc.#BK9642)

"True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing" (Acc.#BK9656)



"The Gospel According to Twilight" (Acc.#BK9659)
"The Barefoot Way" (Acc.#BK9665)
"Top 20 Skits for Youth Ministry" (Acc.#BK9699)

NEW BOOKS FOR INDIVIDUAL ADULTS AND GROUPS

"Disciplemaking Church" (Acc.#BK9724)
"In Defense of Civility" (Acc.#BK9725)
"Writing to God" (Acc.#BK9719)
"Understanding Your Mormon Neighbor" (Acc.#BK9718) and "Mormonism for Dummies"
(Acc.#BK9705)
"Money, Possessions and Eternity" (Acc.#BK9709)

YOUR Resource Center has copies of the Heidelberg Catechism, proposed as an amendment to the Book of Confessions, and which will be voted on by the Presbytery of Arkansas at its meeting on Saturday, June 1.

REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG! Just go to the 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.)

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

**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

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

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**You Are Invited to Attend
Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services**

12th Annual Pink Hat Day

**April 20, 2013
(Lyon Gymnasium)**

Tours will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Registration: 11:00 a.m.

Inviting all Presbyterian Women and Friends to adorn your pink hats and join us for a day of fun, food and fellowship. Lunch provided.

May the best hat win! Reserve your seat at a table today!

New this year is a Silent Auction!

RSVP by April 15, 2013

877-353-6430 or email Reneedickins@veralloyd.org

www.veralloyd.org

www.facebook.com/vlphfs

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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).

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

[Click Here to view a flyer for the 2013 PW Spring Gathering \(Sat, April 27th\)](#)

[. . . and click here for more details about the Spring Gathering](#)

[Click here for information about the 2013 PW Synod of the Sun Gathering](#)

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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 [SHERÉE NIECE](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [CLARE KELLEY](#)

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

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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. 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>