



February 2013

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Harmony After the Storm

This afternoon, I was privileged to forward a check for \$8,004 to the Harmony Presbyterian Church for assistance in their recovery effort following the tornado which struck their sanctuary and manse on May 24, two years ago. The manse was destroyed and the debris have long since been removed. The sanctuary repair, however, has only recently been completed.



The check is a gift from you and all others who contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing. A portion of this offering, received in Lent and on Easter in many congregations is designated for disaster recovery. When a storm, flood or fire damages a church building, we are able to ask for a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Grant funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing. In recent years, disaster assistance grants have helped in the recovery at Ferncliff and the United Campus Ministry in Fayetteville after devastating flooding. Another grant was helpful in assisting the Vilonia Community in its recovery from the tornado which struck on April 25, two years ago. Such immediate financial is a tangible way by which we affirm our connections with one another as members of the Body of Christ.

I'm confident you will generously contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing in your congregation during our Lenten journey. Sharing continues to make big differences.

Gratefully yours,

Bill Galbraith

University of the Ozarks, Clarksville Hosts 122nd Stated Meeting of Presbytery

By NiAnn Thompson, Assistant Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Arkansas began its meeting Friday evening, February 15, 2013 after three pre-presbytery workshops attended by 87 people. Moderator Teaching Elder David Dyer called the meeting to order in Raymond Munger Chapel for the

opening session of business at 6:30 p.m. Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the installation of the 2013 moderator Sherée Niece was led by Teaching Elders Brian Brock and Robert Lowry with the outgoing moderator Dyer preaching. General Presbyter Bill Galbraith and Ruling Elder Dawn Dvoracek officiated at the sacrament with UofO Chamber Singers providing music under direction of Mikael Lindstrom. Mission moderator Ruling Elder Kim Danehower explained the offering for the Presbytery of Arkansas Annual Scholarship Fund which goes to a needy PC(USA) student at UofO and totaled \$1,483.75. A total of 219 people registered, of whom 157 were voting commissioners. Interfaith Service Network, housed at First Presbyterian in Clarksville, received the Ingathering donations.

The meeting resumed Saturday morning with a brief worship service highlighted by the installation of Vice Moderator Teaching Elder Clare Martin Kelley. Business followed, leading to the Order of the Day, the votes on the 18 amendments proposed for the Book of Order. Business resumed and the meeting concluded before lunch.



From left: Teaching Elder Bill Galbraith (General Presbyter), Sherée Niece (newly installed Moderator), and Teaching Elder David Dyer (outgoing Moderator)

The presbytery voted to:

- dissolve administrative commissions who ordained and/or installed new teaching elders
- approve the minutes of the last presbytery meeting
- elect two new members of the Northwest AR Hispanic New Church Development

Administrative Commission

- approve the election by the Ferncliff Board of five members from AR and Pines Presbyteries to the board's Class of 2015
- approve the change in dates of the 124th presbytery meeting at First United, Fayetteville to October 4 and 5
- dissolve the congregation of West Fork Presbyterian, transfer the remaining members to a temporary roll, pursue plans to sell the building, its contents and assets to the "Community Church of West Fork" for \$1.08 plus all fees and expenses associated with transfer of title and assets, and eventually transfer membership names to Community Church of West Fork
- authorize the Administrative Commission for West Fork Presbyterian to finalize the sale and transfer of title of the church and its contents to Community Church of West Fork and oversee transfer of its records to Presbyterian Historical Society
- approve Teaching Elder Tom Ulrich to serve communion during the Footsteps in Faith trip to Greece and Turkey June 10-20, 2013
- remove Ethan Harbour from the presbytery's roll of inquirers in ministry
- approve the proposed 2013 budget for the presbytery of \$902,741
- limit time for discussion of amendments to the Book of Order to two minutes for each speaker, rotating between pro and con
- approve Synod of the Sun's request under its new structure to reduce from 4 to 2 the number of commissioners from this presbytery to synod and consult with them to decide who continues to serve
- elect three people to fulfill unexpired terms on presbytery committees or commission
- receive and enroll Teaching Elder Young Doo Kim, a member of the Presbytery of the Pines, who is serving the Korean Fellowship of Fort Smith, as a member-at-large of the Presbytery of Arkansas



Teaching Elder Young Doo Kim

- approve the honorable retirement of TE Bob Cox of Batesville effective October 13, 2012
- approve the call of TE Nancy Benson-Nicol as the Associate for Gender and Racial Justice for the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency effective February 4
- approve the commissioning of Ruling Elder Gary Adler, a member of First, Mountain Home, as a Commissioned Ruling Elder for that congregation



Rev. Nancy Taylor (left) and CRE Gary Adler

CHANGES TO PRESBYTERY DOCUMENTS

-to approve presbytery's Standing Rules as revised to reflect language changes from the new form of government section of the Book of Order and standardize all punctuation, formatting and style

VOTES ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF ORDER

Presbytery voted to approve amendments

12-A, 12-C through 12-J, after discussing 12-F

Presbytery voted to disapprove amendment 12-B after discussion

The presbytery read reports that:

-General Committee approved request from CC&D to serve communion on March 8 at their spring retreat, accepted the invitation from First, Hot Springs to host June 7, 2014 meeting of presbytery, appointed LowAnna Morehead as synod commissioner member of Nominations Committee, approved committees' requests for pre-presbytery workshops in Feb., approved Disaster Committee's request for AED unit to be available at meetings, appointed a small group to populate a listening team to review the presbytery in light of the new form of government, approved requests for time on the docket in Feb., hold changes in the Manual of Operations until the listening team reports, approved Mission Committee's request that the worship offering at June presbytery meeting be designated for Youth Event Travel and related expenses to Triennium 2013, granted one-time waiver to Hispanic New Church Development AC to add a second elder from the same congregation to the AC, invited TE Stewart Smith to be worship coordinator for presbytery meetings for the year

-necrologies of Rev. C. Victor Brown and William Ford, both honorably retired

-re-commissioning of the following Commissioned Ruling Elders: Carolyn Beane and Hartley Jones to Barr Memorial, Norman; Jim Hays to Memorial, Atkins; Liz Hardin to First, Gurdon; Bruce Schlegel to Cane Hill and Walnut Grove, Farmington; Bill Bush to First, Gravette

-Committee on Ministry will maintain a pulpit supply list without recommendation

-covenant between Parish Associate TE Leslie Belden and First United, Fayetteville was extended as was covenant between interim pastor TE Lindy Vogado and Grace, Little Rock

-TE Lee Power, honorably retired, will moderate Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville

-Van Alma Parish may seek an installed rather than a designated pastor

-The following TEs were dismissed to presbyteries where they are now living: Art Bell, HR, to Presbytery of Grand Canyon; Jeff Parker to North Alabama Presbytery; Melissa McNair-King to Presbytery of The Peaks

-TE Nancy Benson-Nicol was granted permission to labor outside the bounds of the presbytery, having accepted a call in Louisville, KY

-TE Laura Fleetwood, HR retired as parish associate at Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista

-Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee has worked far and wide in 2012 and their offer of grants to congregations

-Presbyterian Historical Society will offer lectures at UofO March 1-2

-College Conference is coming to Mo-Ranch

-Year-end financial balance sheet, operating income statement and individual church benevolence were shared

-Ferncliff's summer camp schedule, AR PW news and news of the Synod's PW gathering presented

The presbytery heard reports that

-Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) appreciated the presbytery's faithful stewardship in 2012

-AR Community Foundation notified presbytery of two policy changes regarding the First Presbyterian of Berryville Legacy Endowment

-Presbytery appreciates churches that supported the mission financially in 2012, and especially those who gave beyond the requested tithe, thanks those that have pledged for 2013 and encourages those that have not yet pledged

-The new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism is proposed for inclusion in the Book of Confessions and will be voted on by the presbytery on June 1

-The State of the Presbytery is exciting, based on side-by-side ministry

-Grant applications for assistance with hunger programs are due to Committee on Mission this spring

-Churches are encouraged to submit names of persons willing to serve on presbytery's committees to Committee on Nominations by March 1

-Ferncliff's State of the Camp and Summer Camp are encouraging

-Twenty-six Youth Advisory Delegates and Young Adult Delegate Advisors attended and participated in the presbytery meeting

-David LaMotte will be in concert at First, NLR April 17

-New minister Phil Blackburn was welcomed, and six Commissioned Ruling Elders were re-commissioned

-Annual Spring Retreat on March 7-9 will highlight "1001 worshipping communities"

-A representative from General Assembly will visit central AR in early April about college campus or student ministries

-Carpathian Basin Water Project, initiated by the PW, is continuing its ministry this year

The next meeting of presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

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Meet Newly Installed Moderator Sherée Niece



Born and raised by a loving family on a farm in northeastern Ohio, Sherée (Parrot) Niece moved with her husband, Rick, to Clarksville, Arkansas, in 1997 to become the First Lady at the University of the Ozarks. Coming from a family of educators, Sherée graduated from a liberal arts college with a degree in elementary education.

In addition to her duties as First Lady and Director of Campus and Community Relations at Ozarks, Sherée has served as a Governor-appointed Commissioner to the District 5 Criminal Detention Facility Review Committee, a member of the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, board member of the Johnson County Community foundation, board chair for Forrester-Davis Development Center, and past president of P. E. O. Chapter CJ. As an elder at Clarksville First Presbyterian Church, Sherée is active in Presbyterian Women, having served as moderator and cluster moderator on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. She has been a member of General Committee since 2009. As she and her husband prepare for his retirement in June, they look forward to relocating to Hot Springs Village. They will become involved in community activities, travel, and work on Rick's third book. Sherée enjoys typing and reading and has proofread six published books including two by her husband, *Side-Yard Superhero* and *The Band Plays On*.

She looks forward to serving the church during this exciting time of change and renewal.

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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.

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Q: Do you know whom to recruit for your congregation's disaster planning and response task force?

A: We suggest you recruit at least three people:

- A person with a passion for disaster ministry
- A person who likes to keep records or notes, and
- A person who will encourage tenaciously, AKA "nag," to keep things going

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

--Congratulations to **Rev. and Mrs. Dick Shinkle** on the birth of a great grandson, Sylus Steele Hultquist, on October 29 to Ryan Hultquist and Alyssa Claire Shinkle in Laurel, Montana. Dick is honorably retired, has served many congregations in the presbytery as interim pastor and now is a member of the Committee on Ministry.

--Ruling Elder **Aileen Moore** is the new church business administrator at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. She is the daughter of Rev. Park and Betty Jean Moore. She succeeds Brian Perry, who held the position for a year and previously was on the presbytery staff. Brian has moved to Iowa to become director of the Center for Non-Profit Management.

--Interim pastor at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock **Rev. Mike Kuner** is recuperating from knee surgery performed on Feb. 4 in Topeka, KS.

--Prayers are requested for **Rev. Fred Taylor** and his wife **Norma** of Bull Shoals, who were in an auto accident in January while on vacation in Florida. Norma is undergoing therapy in a rehab facility in Pensacola, with her recovery expected to take several months, but they may return to Bull Shoals in

mid-March. Fred is an honorably retired member of the presbytery.

--Christian sympathy goes to Commissioned Ruling Elder **Bruce Schlegel** on the death of his father Ben Ferguson Schlegel, a ruling elder at First United, Fayetteville, on Feb. 16. Bruce serves at Cane Hill Presbyterian and Walnut Grove Presbyterian, Farmington.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** prepares meal packs for emergency and for weekends for students at McDermott Elementary aided by a Presbytery hunger grant and in gratitude, a group of students sang for members in December.

--**First United, Fayetteville** developed a community outreach event "Celebration of Light" during Advent which included an outdoor drive-by nativity scene, three Wednesday evening events for the Fayetteville community with a free dinner, Christmas children's pageant, outreach to their preschool families including live farm animals at the manger and a focus on Christmas music of all styles. Average attendance was around 200, and new connections were made with preschool and community participants.

--Pastor Nancy Taylor led the session of **First, Mountain Home** in an all-day retreat focusing on hospitality, including discussion of biblical texts on the subject and a look at present activities and programs to determine availability to the community.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** has a new web page and members created a new set of paraments for the chancel.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** offers Theology on Tap the second Sunday evening of the month at the pastor's home.

--**First, Hot Springs** plans a luncheon for new members at the pastor's home and a Sunday morning recognition of members received in 2012.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** hosts a book club for women and a blood drive led by the men's fellowship.

--**First, Prairie Grove** has its own wi-fi hotspot so that if you are anywhere in the building, you can assess the system.

--**First, Benton** kicked off confirmation for youth in grades 6-8 on Feb. 10.

--**Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** welcomed Jeff and Christi Boyd, Presbyterian missionaries to Cameroon, Africa, on Feb. 3. The Boyds led an intergenerational "game" of daily activities of African students in place of Sunday School and also led morning worship.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** is one of many congregations that will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday.

--**First, Dardanelle** schedules their monthly potluck on the second Sunday after worship.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** included communion in their imposition of ashes service on February 13.

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UofO Chaplain Departs

Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol, chaplain at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, was honored on Jan. 23 with a farewell reception at the Presbyterian-affiliated college. She accepted the position of Associate for Gender and Racial Justice in Louisville, KY.



(From left) Rev. Ron Jones, honorably retired; General Presbyterian Bill Galbraith; Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol, chaplain at UofO; Rick Niece, UofO president; Rev. Robert Lowry, interim pastor, First and Harmony, Clarksville; and Rev. Maetta Snyder, honorably retired. Rev. Dr. Jerry Rice and Vice-Moderator Sheree Niece were not in photo.

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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 REVIEWS from patrons of the Resource Center

--Rev. Dave King, First, Brinkley and Presbyterian Village, explains that Texas Presbyterian Foundation gave out the illustrated gift book for parents and children, "**Three Cups**" by Mark St. Germain, with the subtitle "teaching children how to save, spend and be charitable with money is as easy as one, two, three." This book is based on a true story of parents who gave their child a weekly allowance and more importantly taught him the values of saving, spending and charity by using three ordinary cups - one for each use of money.

--Rev. Heinrich Eiler of Hot Springs Village endorses the 27-minute VHS and DVD versions of "**Martin, the Cobbler**," (Acc. #VC5156 or DVD9112) a clay-mation presentation of the story by Leo Tolstoy with his daughter Alexandra narrating, as being "beautifully and faithfully retold." This story may inspire anyone who has ever felt anger toward God or other people due to their losses and loneliness.

--Rev. Leslie Roper, First, Batesville, emailed her happiness over using the special issues of "Presbyterians Today" magazine on welcoming and beliefs as texts for training. "We are starting our new member class on Sunday. I have copies of the three "**Presbyterians Today**" for everyone. That is going to be such a wonderful way to structure the class, and a great take-home for each of them. Thank you for the suggestion!!" Resource Center carries these three plus the officer training edition in multiples.



--Teaching Elder Rita Wilson and Ruling Elder Roger Bates, both of First, Yellville, are pleased with two resources. He wrote that the Sunday School enjoyed and even loved "**The Four Acts of Prayer**" (Acc. #DVD9404) and that Rev. Wilson was using "**Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith**" with **Jack Rogers** (Acc. #DVD9351 or 9352) for a training class for new ruling elders.

Resources for late Lent or Holy Week:

"**What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art**" is a new resource presented by Candler School of Theology at Emory University. In this DVD and discussion guide combination, similar to the one produced and favorably received in several of our congregations during Advent, biblical scholars and a professor of preaching offer their expertise on the gospel texts of Jesus' last week as presented in the artwork of John August Swanson. Stories covered are raising Lazarus, entry into Jerusalem, Jesus washing feet, Last Supper, betrayal and arrest, crucifixion and burial.

"**Touch the Water, Taste the Bread: Exploring the Sacraments with Children**" ages 4-8. Set contains CD-Rom with three lessons on baptism and three on Communion, leader's guide with recorded music, powerpoint slides and reproducible activity pages as well as stand-alone storybooks.

"**Mission: Easter, Youth Programs & Ideas for Lent**" (Acc. #BK8759) offers 7 Lenten Bible studies, devotional programs for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, retreat ideas, dramas and a Bible dictionary explaining the traditions, beliefs and practices that make this season holy. "**Destination Easter! Lenten Programs & Practices for Youth**" (Acc. #BK8081) offers a daily journal for students, calendar, Agape Feast, Peter's Walk, Palm bouquets, programs on cleansing the temple, the untouchables and the Great Commission.

See us for Vacation Bible School exam kits free to takers from Standard, Group, Abingdon and Cokesbury! We also have the new "Solar Under the Sun" VBS curriculum announced at presbytery meeting.

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

A few spots are still available for Presbytery-sponsored Youth Summer Trips!!

- 3 spots available: Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch, July 6-11, 2013 (current 6th-8th graders)
- 4 spots available: Montreat Youth Conference, July 20-27, 2013 (current 8th-12th graders)

Spots will fill quickly! Please send in your registration and deposits soon!

*Our trip to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 15-20, is currently full, but we are taking a Wait List! There is a very good chance we will be able to open the trip up and take some more participants. If you are interested, please send in your registration form and deposit today!

For more information, please click [here](#)

or contact Britton Varn at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

**Save the Date!
Sr. High Youthquake!**



"Faith Like a Child"

April 5-7, 2013

Camp Ozark

\$95 per participant

current 9th-12th graders

*2 He called a child, whom he put among them, 3 and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you
change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4
Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5
Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. -- Matthew 18: 2-5*

More information and registration forms will be arriving at each church soon! Be on
the look out!

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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Presbyterian Pilgrimage Offers Scholarships

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

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Winter Weather Reminder

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

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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 February, 2013 newsletter from Presbyterian Women](#)

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

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

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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>