



July 2013

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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People and Church News

Van Buren Minister Dies

Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Rev. Dr. Stanley D. Farmer** of Van Buren who died on June 4, 2013. An honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, Farmer was a veteran of the Korean War. During his 56 years of ministry he was pastor of First, Yellville and First, Van Buren, and after retirement in 1996 he was an interim minister in Fort Smith, Berryville, Paris and Ozark. During his 48 years in the Presbytery of AR, he served on committees on education, budget, vocations, preparation for ministry, nominations, personnel and was moderator of Presbytery in 1991. He is survived by his wife Karen, daughter Sarah Earll of CA; sons Danny of Bella Vista and Don of Bentonville and two grandsons. The memorial service was

held at First, Van Buren on June 11, and memorials may be made to First, Van Buren or Compassionate Ministry food bank of Van Buren, which Farmer helped begin.

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Gonzalez** of Farmington on the death of Jesse's father Arnulfo de Jesus Gonzalez on July 6 in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Jesse is the presbytery evangelist at Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana in Springdale, and a member of Committee on Nominations.

--**Rev. Drew Travis** has resigned as pastor at First, Conway to accept the call as pastor at First, Granbury (TX) in the Presbytery of Grace.

--**Rev. and Mrs. J.Q. Williams** have moved from Springdale to Mena. He is an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Ritchie** on the death of his father William S. Ritchie, Jr. on June 6 in Claremore, OK. Dennis is pastor of Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista and a member of presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

--Candidate for Ministry **Becky Purcell** was inaugural winner of the Creation Care Sermon Award at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. Becky is a member of FUPC, Fayetteville and under care of the Presbytery of AR.

--Candidate for ministry **Jen Bluestein**, a member of First, Springdale, is moving with her family to Fort Worth, TX in July for her husband's new job.

--**Ann Tibbs** is the new Minister of Music at First, Pine Bluff.

News of Our Clusters and Congregations

--**Cluster I** in northwest AR will have a homemade ice cream social and competition at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 14, at First, Springdale.

--**Cluster IV** in east AR will conduct their annual session records (minutes and register) review on Monday, July 22, at Graham Memorial, Forrest City.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Van Buren** celebrated worship and the church picnic at the home of a church member on June 30, after having Sunday School at the church.

--Like many PC(USA) congregations **Mountainburg Presbyterian** finalized their church by-laws and voted on them in a corporate meeting on June 30.

--**First, Jacksonville** is encouraging members to purchase one of the new hymnals "Glory to God" in memory or in honor of a loved one or to the glory of God for the blessings in one's life.

--**First, Pine Bluff** hosted a neighborhood block party in June to welcome the Pine Bluff fire department to their neighborhood.

--**First, Conway** is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 8 to 1 on July 21 as a form of Christian witness.

--**First, Benton** has begun a Monday morning time of lectio divina, referring primarily to the reading of scripture specifically for spiritual nourishment.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** has established a Facebook page showing photos of the Kirk, its members and activities.

--**Graham Memorial, Forrest City** is hosting three mission service groups this summer.

--**First, Clarksville** joins with Holy Redeemer and First United Methodist for Vacation Bible School on July 15-19.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosts a documentary film series on Sunday afternoons, July 21, 28 and Aug. 4, complete with popcorn and drinks.

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** will be collecting school supplies this summer for Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Family Services.

--**First, Dardanelle** has resumed food pantry distribution days to the public on Tuesday mornings this summer.

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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.

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 by Aug. 31 for election on Oct. 5.

Choir Director -- Kirk of the Hills (Fairfield Bay, AR) seeks an organist/choir director beginning in July, 2013. If you are interested, please email Pastor Bob Hadley at rwhadley@artelco.com.

Pianist -- First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville is in need of a pianist. The ability to play the organ is an asset but is not required. We are a small church of very friendly people. We are looking for someone to play the piano; someone who will support our Praise & Worship Band as well as play solo. Church service is 11-12 on Sundays. The choir and band practice once a week; the pianist would be wanted for the practice. Salary is negotiable.

Youth Director -- Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock is seeking a Youth Director. This is a part time position and requires loving the Lord and loving Junior and Senior High kids. A short job description is available [here](#). If you are interested, please call the church office at 501-868-5848 or email at office@trinitypreslr.com for more information.

Youth Intern -- First Presbyterian, Harrison is seeking a young adult who has the ability to lead our junior and senior high youth into deeper Christian discipleship as they grow physically, mentally and spiritually. This person would need to be available on Sundays, mornings and evenings. For a more complete job description and application form please contact the Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Jane Huffstetler at jane@fpcharrison.org, check out our website at www.harrisonfpc.org, or contact the church office at 870/741-2464.

Director of Youth Ministries and Christian Education -- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs seeks qualified candidate for the position of Director of Youth Ministries and Christian Education. This is a professional, full-time lay position with primary focus towards Youth Ministries with additional responsibilities for Christian Education for the entire congregation. Email your resume and cover letter to

wpchsar@sbcglobal.net. A complete job description is available if requested.

First Presbyterian Church/My Friends and Me Child Care Program of Bentonville, Arkansas, seeks a Parent Day Out Teacher (2 year old) beginning August 19, 2013. This is a full time position. Required an energetic, self-motivated, creative problem-solver with great client communication skills. Preferred experience working with children/in a child care center. For more information, please call the church 479-273-5450, or email

zcooper@fpcbentonville.org.

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FIRST UNITED, FAYETTEVILLE TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

On Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5, 2013, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 124th stated meeting at First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville. Tentative plans to be approved by General Committee call for registration on Friday at 3:00, pre-presbytery workshops from 3:30 to 5:00, evening meal hosted by the church at 5:00, gavel to begin business at 6:15, opening worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 7:15, and reception following. Saturday's schedule will be 7:30 continental breakfast, 8:30 gavel and morning worship, and business to follow with a fund-raiser Mexican mid-day meal prepared by people of Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana in Springdale. Ruling Elder Sheree Niece will moderate the meeting.

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Q: If a disaster, either natural or human-caused, happens in your church, who will provide emotional and spiritual care for your pastor?

A: Disasters, either in the congregation or community, place a heavy burden on a pastor's emotional and spiritual reserves. Even if the pastor's house is not damaged by the flood or the tornado, the pastor will be exerting extra energy to care for YOU the members, and for the community. So, pastors and sessions, plan now who can be the pastor's support system when a disaster happens in your midst.

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

Boston Response

Following the tragedy at the Boston Marathon, members of the PDA National Response Team were deployed to provide consultation and support to leaders of the faith community as they gather and assess their role in response to the violence in their community.

An initial report, prayers and worship resources are available online

Gifts to support the response may be sent to PDA designated for DR000015- Boston.

West, Texas, Response

The explosion of 25 tons of fertilizer at a plant in West, Texas, has devastated the community.

National Response Team members were organized and deployed to the area as quickly as possible. An initial report, prayers and worship resources are available online [here](#).

Gifts to support the response may be sent to PDA designated for DR000015- West, TX.

Oklahoma Tornado Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) continues to be present in Moore, Oklahoma, and in other communities experiencing inclement weather across the country - even as the media begins to move on.

For an update on PDA's response and options for volunteering, giving, and [here](#).

Gifts to support the response may be sent to PDA designated for DR00015-Spring Storms 2013.

Please Pray

Please keep the families and communities affected by these tragedies in prayer, that the hope of Christ will be evident, even through the chaos and trauma. Please visit the web reports for prayers to share with your congregation.

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

<http://www.presbytervofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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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.

Jeannie Ford, church educator, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock writes of YOUR Resource Center: "My first memories and experiences of the Presbytery Resource Center go "way back"--- to the Carriage House behind the Presbytery Office on South Gaines. It was there that I, as a member of the Resource Center Advisory Council, first became acquainted with Veggie Tales and those loveable vegetables who teach us about God's love. Our hardest work "back then" was to make the transition from 16mm films and film strips to VHS tapes! Resources have changed in many ways through the years, and yet have stayed the same in so many ways.....those favorite and most useful books, authors, and presenters are most likely still around in some form. The Presbytery Resource Center has also changed-through two physical moves, a couple of staff transitions, and a variety of dedicated folks who have served and continue to serve in an advisory capacity. And yet--under the guidance and leadership of Christian Educator NiAnn Thompson, the Resource Center remains a treasure trove of resources in many forms. We have a variety of resources ranging from books to curriculum to DVD sets to music.....yet our most valuable resource continues to be the personal attention and advice given by NiAnn to any and all who call in search of help finding "just the right thing." Our Resource Center continues to be a vital support for members, ministers, and educators in all areas of ministry and has expanded its scope to provide resources to churches in the Presbytery of the Pines.

What can you do to help continue ongoing ministry through your Resource Center?

--Come by and visit if you are in the area! Come and browse the "stacks"-- it's hard to leave without at least one resource. Then take a brochure, business card or publicity pen home to share with your



congregation.

--Let any member of the RC board or NiAnn know if your church is in need of resources in a particular area or if you know of a resource you think would be valuable to add to our "library."

--If your church purchases a DVD series for use in your local setting, please consider letting the resource "live" in the Resource Center while you are not using it. (We have been known to share the cost of a needed resource that will find a home on our shelves.)

--Say "thank you" to NiAnn!!

NEW RESOURCES FROM OUR DENOMINATION FOR YOUR SUMMER PREVIEW

"Christian Marriage in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): A Two-Hour Study". This is the study that was previewed and "test-run" on our presbytery at the stated meeting on June 1 when Rev. "Chip" Hardwick was our guest.

"God with Us: Worship and Christian Education resources for congregational use after a local disaster" from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Mission (on DVD or as an email attachment)

"Austin Seminary Mid-Winter Lectures 2013 CD" including three lectures by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, two by Margaret Aymer, two by Joseph Small and two worship services led by Karl Travis.

"2013-2014 Horizons Bible Study, An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy" in regular print, large print, audio edition (study book read by author) and companion DVD (introduction to nine lessons by author and including downloadable PDF documents, annotated table of contents and workshop for leaders)

"10 Tips for Creating a Welcoming Environment for Young Adults" by Rob Fohr, Young Adult Catalyst, Presbyterian Mission Agency

In light of the denomination's approval this spring of the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism being added to the Book of Confessions, consider: **"Body and Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism"** (Acc. #BK9726) by M. Craig Barnes and jointly from Faith Alive and Congregational Ministries Publishing. Rave Review from Leah Wyckoff in Grace Presbytery's Resource Center "The book is wonderful and reads almost like a devotional...It was so good that the entire class wanted to meet the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend so that we could finish the last session on Prayer! Great stuff!" With training for deacons and ruling elders coming up this fall for many congregations, remember we have the booklets on the new translation for loan.

A new favorite devotional for anybody is the beautifully illustrated book **"Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing"** (Acc. #BK9727) by Sally Lloyd-Jones. "These are one minute or shorter devotionals designed for children but awesome really for any age," says Jenny Chapman, Resource Center Director, Presbytery of South Alabama.

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)

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News Prayers Requested!

Please keep these groups of young people in your prayers as they travel and gather with other Presbyterian youth this month!

*15 youth and 3 adults traveling to Mo Ranch for the Jr. High Jubilee, July 6-11

*24 youth and 5 adults traveling to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at

Purdue University, July 15-20

*20 youth and 4 adults traveling to Montreat for a Montreat Youth Conference, July 20-27

**South African Global Partners to be hosted by
Arkansas Presbytery Youth this month!**

As part of the Global Partners program of Presbyterian Youth Triennium, our Presbytery has the opportunity to host three individuals from South Africa this month. The Global Partners program brings young people from PC(U.S.A.)'s partner denominations around the world to participate in the Triennium conference. The presence of Global Partners enriches everyone's experience at Triennium. We have the privilege of hosting two young people, Quinlan (16) and Jeandre (15). Bernice, an adult woman, is accompanying them. They arrived in Little Rock on July 3 and will be living in homes with families of Triennium participants until July 15, when they will go with our Presbytery delegation to Triennium. After Triennium, they will attend the Montreat Youth Conference with our Presbytery group. They will head home on July 28.



(South African partners met with representatives of the Presbytery of Arkansas for lunch on July 3)
We hope many of you will get the opportunity to meet these guests and share some Arkansas hospitality with them. Please pray for their safe travels as well!

Save the Date!

Presbytery of Arkansas

Jr. High Youthquake

Sept. 27-29, 2013

Ferncliff

Theme:

You Can Make a Difference

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

All 6th-9th graders are invited to attend!

Registration materials will be sent to each church in August and will also be available on the Presbytery website (www.presbyteryofarkansas.org).

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.

(The Presbytery of Arkansas' Youth Ministry receives funding from the Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education)

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Vera Lloyd Achieves Accreditation

Monticello and Little Rock, AR-Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services has achieved national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). **Achieving accreditation means Vera Lloyd is among the best in the field.** For our donors and churches who support us, accreditation validates that high quality services are being delivered; that we are following sound financial practices and that we as an organization are operating efficiently.

Presbyterians across the Pines and Arkansas Presbyteries should be very proud of this accomplishment because you played a huge role in the ability of Vera Lloyd to continue its existence through your gifts of time, talents and donations for the past 90 years. Please join

us in celebrating this achievement!

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Presbytery Mission Trip to Moore, OK

Who: Anyone (age 18 and older) is invited to go on this trip.

When: We will leave on Sunday, October 13th and return Saturday, October 19th

What: While specifics are still unknown, most likely we will be doing clean-up and light construction assistance work.

Where: We will be working in the area of Moore, OK

Why: We want to help to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Moore, OK.

Cost: The cost is \$100.00. We will be housed in a local church.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:

October 1, 2013

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

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Partners in Ministry

Is the support staff person at your church an empty-nester who wants to work part-time? Is that person a single parent who wants a job that will work with children's schedules? Is that person someone who is drawn to service in the Church, has office skills, but no formal education in church-related matters? Did you know that the PCUSA has an organization for these persons? It's called the Administrative Personnel Association (APA) and it was created to provide training and education in basic topics like Church History, Theology, Spiritual Growth and Polity and electives in work and personal areas to enable support staff personnel to truly be "Partners in Ministry." No matter the path taken to church office work, nearly all of those who follow it develop a sense of call and a desire to learn more in order to do their best for the Lord they serve.

On October 17-19, the Arkansas Chapter of APA is hosting the Southwest Regional Conference in Little Rock. This event is open to all support staff personnel in Presbyterian churches, presbytery and synod offices across the county. Courses to be offered are:

* Spiritual Growth and Discipline

- * Book of Confessions
- * Theology
- * Risk Management
- * The Church and Persons with Disability
- * Healthy Lifestyles (which includes participation in Race for the Cure)
- * PCUSA History Since Reunion
- * Microsoft Access
- * Pastoral Care for Self and Others
- * Social Media
- * Board of Pensions Benefits Plan

The classes will be presented by Teaching Elders and others who are experts in their fields. To learn more about this conference, please contact Pam Luther or Sage Arnold at 501-227-0000. Scholarships are available. Further information about the conference (including a downloadable brochure) and APA is available at www.pcusa-apa.org.

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Presbytery Offers Grants Through Congregational Care & Development Committee

The Presbytery of Arkansas offers grants to those churches that need help in doing the ministry of God. These grants are for ministry, and not "brick and mortar" needs -- although if a church has a "brick and mortar" need, the CC&D Committee refers the church to the Moody Trust.

An application for grant money, and more information, can be found here:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmPresbyteryDocuments.aspx> (look for the document titled "CC&D Small Church Grant Application Form.")

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An Invitation to attend Presbyterian Pilgrimage #19 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock

October 10-13, 2013

The weekend activities begin about 5:30 pm on Thursday, Oct. 10, and conclude about 5 pm Sunday, Oct. 13. Enjoy a weekend of study, worship, fun, and fellowship that will bring you closer to God!

Moderator -- Tommy Watts

To register, visit www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org or contact Sandra Phillips, the Registrar at 870-688-9189. Through the Presbytery's financial support of Arkansas

Presbyterian Pilgrimage, the ARPP would like to scholarship up to five Presbyterian participants for the upcoming pilgrimage weekend. You may request up to \$200 in scholarship assistance if needed. You may indicate your need for scholarship assistance when you register.

Deadline to register for Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage #19 is September 8, 2013.

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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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PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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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>

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