



March 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)

[Good Shepherd Hosts 13th Annual Bishops' Luncheon](#)

[Church Employment Opportunities in the Presbytery](#)

[Disaster Assistance Helpful Hint](#)

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

[Update from David Mills, Presbyterian YAV in Belfast](#)

[NiAnn Thompson: Resource Center News](#)

[News for Presbytery Youth](#)

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

[Presbytery Prayer List](#)

[Link to Presbyterian Women Newsletter](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

### Good Shepherd Hosts 13th Annual Bishops' Luncheon

Good Shepherd Retirement Center will honor the leaders of their founding denominations on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Little Rock. Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock will be presiding as honorary host at the annual luncheon.

The other leaders being honored are Reverend Larry Benfield - Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas, Reverend Dr. William F. Galbraith - Presbyter of Arkansas, and Reverend Gary E. Mueller, Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Arkansas.

Those being recognized continue a long tradition begun by Bishop Andrew McDonald, Bishop Eugene Frank, and Bishop Christoph Keller who recognized the need in the 1970's for affordable senior housing. They were committed to providing independent living options for older adults.

Reverend Gary E. Mueller, the newly elected Methodist leader, will speak at the

Bishops' Luncheon. Tickets are available for \$150 each and a reserved table for 10 may be purchased for \$1,500 by contacting Chandra Vaughn at 501-320-1155. J. Mark Davis is CEO of Good Shepherd Community. More than 450 residents currently live at the independent living community campus on Aldersgate Road in west Little Rock.

### **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](#)



### **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

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

**Q: If a fire were to sweep through your church building(s) tomorrow, would you remember what to replace?**

**A: You will be more likely to remember -- when you have a video record of your property.**

How about asking your youth to video your property items - and ask a careful notetaker to document everything for a database. Video the organs/pianos, pulpit, worship accessories, heirloom books and furniture, kitchen equipment, athletic equipment. Video anything you would miss if it were destroyed.

After you do a video inventory, put other volunteers to work adding all the insurance data for each item: vendor name, vendor contact information, and original price. And remember to add new purchases to your video and database inventories.

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

### **First Presbyterian Church--Huntsville Hosts Disaster Preparation Event**

"It's not 'if' your community will experience a disaster -- but 'when!'" So said Scott Howard and Liz Branch as they talked to the Presbyterian Church of Huntsville on Feb. 24. Scott and Liz, from the presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee (DPRC), outlined

steps the Huntsville congregation can take to protect its people and its property from fire, storms, flooding, or whatever the next disaster happens to be.

The Huntsville congregation takes disaster preparedness seriously. Why shouldn't they? They remember the 2009 ice storm, which crippled NW Arkansas for more than a week. During the storm, they realized that their own Madison County has no storm shelter. Since the church is raising money to build a new multipurpose building soon, they are hoping that their new space can double as an emergency shelter as well as a classroom and meeting space.

Congregations who want to know more about disaster preparedness and/or have the DPRC present the "Congregational Disaster Preparedness" PowerPoint slide show at a scheduled church or church cluster event may email Liz at [erbranch@comcast.net](mailto:erbranch@comcast.net) or Scott at [patandscotth0103@att.net](mailto:patandscotth0103@att.net) -- or can get preparedness information at

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

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee.

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

## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Malinda Kirchner** and family on the death of her father Elliott Moye Rutledge on Feb. 26. His memorial service was at First United, Fayetteville. Malinda is director of planned giving at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Rev. Rebecca Spooner** of Conway has completed her service as Stated Supply at First, Lonoke but continues as director of Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center in Little Rock.

--**Rev. Debbie Spangler** has resigned as pastor of First, Walnut Ridge and with her husband relocated to Texas.

--**Hannah Cruse** will complete her service as organist/choir director at Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay at the end of June.

--Prayers are requested for **Ailene Thames**, wife of **Rev. Jimmie Thames**, honorably retired, of Rogers. Ailene recently suffered a stroke. Jimmie is pastor emeritus of First, Jacksonville.

--**Margaret Dorland** has resigned as administration assistant at Grace, Little Rock and **Nesha Burton** has begun in that position.

--**Matt Overturf** will be leading youth at Wynne Presbyterian every other Sunday evening, beginning April 7.

--Presbytery treasurer **Wes Shaver** has moved from Wynne to Little Rock.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Arkadelphia's** sanctuary roof was struck by lightning and partially burned on Feb. 21 but the congregation was able to worship in the sanctuary on Feb. 24. Repairs and restoration are in process.

-In May **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** is offering scholarships to qualified student members seeking financial aid and the church plans a churchwide retreat May 24-27 at Ferncliff.

--**First, Jacksonville** is raising money for "Lambs for Lent" to buy a sheep from Heifer Project International.

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** plans a March 26th trip to Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs for the tulip extravaganza and an April 11th visit to Petit Jean State Park to look at wildflowers.

--**First, Alma; Mountainburg Presbyterian; and First, Van Buren** will join for a Palm Sunday Service at 5 p.m. on March 24 at Mountainburg.  
--**Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** will host the Cluster 6 Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m. on March 29 with a choral group from the University of the Ozarks bringing the music.  
--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** has designated the Kirkin' of the Tartans service on April 7 as one of the occasions to celebrate their 140th birthday in 2013.  
--**Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** will offer a study to prepare members to form a team to visit hospitalized members and friends of the church.  
--**United Campus Ministry** students led worship at **First, Springdale** on Feb. 17.



--On March 3, which was "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday in the denomination, **Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** Presbyterian Women presented their "Celebration of Biblical Women," written and produced by the PW during morning worship. Begun in 1989, this colorful production has been presented around the community with the script and four sets of costumes having been loaned to groups across the US. Contact Jeanne Dare (501.884.3304) for more details.  
[Back to the top of this email](#)

### **News from David Mills, Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland**

In 2012, the Presbytery of Arkansas contributed \$2,500 to help sponsor David Mills' work as a Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland. David is approximately halfway through his service in Belfast and recently sent a letter to the presbytery office.

The letter offers thanks for supporting him, details on David's preparation for the ministry in Northern Ireland, and a thorough description of the work he is doing on behalf of the Presbyterian Church.

To read the letter in full, click [here](#).

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

## 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 (a testimonial) from Julie Price, DCE, Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock**

*I have been a church professional for 25 years, and I have a confession to make. I am ashamed to admit that for too many years, I lived in ignorance of the wonderful opportunity available to me through my own Presbytery Resource Center. Many hours, have I sat in my office (that's right, not just my pew, but my office!) culling through reviews of books and curriculum, searching for what might be inspiring, yet still affordable for my congregation. You see, I thought I was alone in my quest. Little did I know that just a short drive, a phone call or a click of my computer mouse would lay at my feet a world of free knowledge and resources.*

*Almost by accident did I discover the hidden (in plain sight) treasures waiting for me at our Presbytery's Resource Center. How had I been so blind not to see that NiAnn Thompson, the center's Resourcing Director, had been there all along just waiting for me to call? She was there for me to pick her brain about what would work well with my weekly women's group or what were the best options for a certain Sunday school class. But wait, it gets better. Then she was able to hand me those resources to take back to my congregation to review and use. Through NiAnn's guidance, our congregation discovered the perfect book, video, or curriculum for our particular needs. She introduced us to the Nooma video series. We could never have afforded to purchase it, but, thanks to the Resource Center, both a youth and an adult class have used it and both have grown through that series. We had the same experience with Adam Hamilton's series on different Christian denominations and different world religions which helped us grow in our faith and knowledge of who we are as Presbyterians. If you have never thought about or understood what a gift you have available to you in our resource center, take a few minutes and look at the center's online catalog. If you need recommendations, give NiAnn a call (501.663.2424 ex. 104) or shoot her an e-mail ([niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)) and ask your questions. Trust me, you'll be so glad you did!*

--Ruling Elder Sharon Lessenberry, First, Conway compliments video "**When a Loved One Dies**" (Acc. #VC8058) and books "**The Empty Chair**" (Acc. #BK8270) and "**Grief Therapy**" (Acc. #BK9348) on loss and grief: "All of it is wonderful and very helpful. I loved the VCR tape and both of the books."

--Ruling Elder Susan Anderson, First, Springdale emailed of "**The Power of Forgiveness**" (Acc. #DVD9587 or #VC9256) "We found the DVD to be very helpful. We used it as continuing education for Stephen Ministry. The information was very helpful to use with care receivers who are experiencing difficulty with being able to forgive themselves or someone else who has hurt them."

--Teaching Elder Laura Fleetwood, honorably retired, Bella Vista has written a discussion guide for the Dietrich Bonhoeffer book "**Life Together: A discussion of Christian fellowship**" (Acc. #BK2998 or #BK3075, plus 2 additional copies) and made it available for any group or individual discussing this book.

**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](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](#)



**Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News**  
**Presbytery-sponsored Youth Summer Trips Update**

- **JR. HIGH JUBILEE AT MO RANCH** - We still have three open spots for this fabulous week, July 6-11, 2013. Current 6th-8th graders are invited. Cost is \$560.
- **PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM - PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWS!** We are able to open up 10 new spots for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium trip, July 15-20! Please spread the news to youth in your church (current 8th-12th graders)! The cost is \$640. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until MARCH 15!!
- **MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE** - There are just three spots left! This trip is July 20-27, 2013. Current 8th-12th graders are eligible to attend. Cost is \$750.

Partial scholarships are available to those with financial need! Please contact Britton Varn at [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org) for more information, or questions about any of these trips.

Detailed information and registration forms for all trips available at:  
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

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**Youth Advisory Team Retreat Spring 2013**

The Youth Advisory Team held its annual spring retreat on March 1st and 2nd at 1st Presbyterian Church of Conway. Twenty-five youth and adults gathered to continue planning for youth events in 2013, as well as brainstorm possible future events and leadership opportunities. Friday evening consisted of group building games with closing vespers led by youth Co-Moderator Steven McConkie (1st Presbyterian, Conway). We began our Saturday with a FABULOUS breakfast buffet prepared by the men of 1st Presbyterian Church Conway. We spent the rest of the morning working in teams to finalize plans for upcoming events and to evaluate past events.



Following another FANTASTIC meal provided by the church, we met as a whole team for reports and business.

Each team reported on their work from the morning session. In other business we heard a report from Presbytery staff member Britton Varn on the status of the 2013 summer trips. **Information regarding registration for Sr. High YouthQuake (April 5-7) and all**

**summer trips is posted online at [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org).**

The 2013-2014 Youth

Advisory Team applications will be available in early April and are due back to the Presbytery office by May 1st. If you have any questions about signing up, please contact Britton Varn at [britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

Our retreat ended with worship planned and led



by youth. Our next retreat is set for August 2 & 3. Stay tuned to The Banner for more details.

2012/2013 Youth Advisory Team Co-Moderators,  
Mary Shaw and Ashley Clark

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## Sr. High Youthquake!



## Faith Like a Child!

April 5-7, 2013  
Camp Ozark (Mt. Ida, AR)  
\$95 per participant  
All 9th-12th graders invited!

*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*

Complete information and registration packet can be found on the Presbytery website at: <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/fmYouthCouncil.aspx>

**Registration deadline: March 22, 2013**

Keynote Speaker:

David Powers, Associate Pastor at Madison Presbyterian Church (Madison, GA)

Music Leader:

Tim Anthony, Co-Director of Music at Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church  
(Little Rock)

**Chaplain:**

Susan Rose, Campus Minister of United Campus Ministry (Fayetteville)

**Director:**

Sarah Leer

**Co-Director:**

Donna Ellison

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

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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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**Presbyterian Pilgrimage Offers Scholarships**

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

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

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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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](#)

[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>