



November 2013

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Coming Soon!

There are several opportunities scheduled for the next few months which I encourage you to consider as you plan your personal and congregational activities.

The Presbyterian Black Caucus is hosting their Annual Musical and Dinner on December 8, 2013, at 4 p.m. at Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

Choirs from Allison, West End in Arkadelphia, Faith in Pine Bluff and Holmes Chapel in Monticello (Pines Presbytery) are participating. The event helps provide support to young people of these congregations who wish to go to camps and conferences. Allison Memorial Presbyterian is located at 922 Wright Avenue, south of Interstate 630 just east of the intersection of Chester and Wright.

From January 20-24 (Monday through Friday), 2014, the Presbytery is hosting a Mediation Skills Training Institute at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. The Mediation Skills Training Institute will be led by Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Active and practical in focus, the sessions emphasize hands-on skills training and real-life role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts faced by participants. Registration is rapidly filling for this outstanding opportunity. Registration is \$990 (covering tuition, room and board) prior to December 16. Afterward, it is \$1,090. The commuter fee is \$695 if paid before December 16 and \$795 afterward. Commuters may pay for individual meals. Contact the Presbytery office, (501) 663-2424, to register.

The third opportunity is the first of a series of workshops called *Healthy Boundaries*. It will be offered as a pre-presbytery workshop before the meeting on February 21-22 at Lyon College. All pastors, Christian Educators, youth and children's workers are encouraged to participate. Our interactive participation will be facilitated by the Rev. Rebecca Spooner, director of Wellspring Renewal Center and a teaching elder of this presbytery. A workbook costing \$15 is required for each participant. Congregations with staff members participating are invited to foster participation by purchasing a workbook for each staff member attending. Follow-up workshops using the *Healthy Boundaries* curriculum will be offered at subsequent meetings of the Presbytery. I hope to see many of you at each of these events. Each offers an excellent opportunity to build upon the relationships which are vital for the ministries to which we have been called.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments
November

11-12 Committee on Ministry Retreat, Ferncliff

14 Arkansas Interfaith Assembly, Aguduth Achim, Little Rock

18 Cluster Meeting at Second Presbyterian with Michael Jenkins, President of Louisville Seminary



19 Visit with First, Lincoln Session
20-24 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees; Hunt, TX
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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 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.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Dr. Bill and Sibyl Galbraith** on the death of her father Robert E. Kingston, Jr. in San Antonio, TX on October 12. Bill is General Presbyter.

--**Rev. Dr. Dari Rowen** was installed Oct. 17 for a one-year term as the Alumni Council President of McCormick Theological Seminary at the Annual Alumni Reunion and Continuing Education event McCormick Days. Dari is pastor of First, Benton.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Revs. Linda Whitworth-Reed and David Reed** on the death of Linda's uncle Ray Wheeler in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a charter member of John Knox Presbyterian of Fort Worth. Linda is transitional pastor at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock and David is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

--**Certified Christian Educator Susie Wright**, Church Educator at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs, is retiring effective November 26. Susie is moderator of Committee on Preparation for Ministry and with her husband Curtis has led the presbytery-wide mission trip for many years.

--**Louis Menendez**, organist at First, Hot Springs, has resigned to accept a music position in Philadelphia, PA.

--**Linda McMillan** is retiring as administrative assistant at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs effective November 27. She was formerly the program administrator for the Presbytery of Arkansas.

--**Rev. David Gill** was honored by Presbyterians for Earth Care(PEC), receiving PEC's William Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award at PEC's annual meeting on October 18th. At the same meeting, Solar Under the Sun (SUTS) was also honored with PEC's Restoring Creation Award.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** is hosting the Lyon Lecture Series on Nov. 17-18, "A Church Transforming" with special guest lecturer, Rev. Dr. Michael Jinkins, president and professor of theology at Louisville Seminary. Jinkins will preach at 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00, present to the combined adult Sunday School classes, and offer an evening lecture at 6 p.m. on Nov. 17. On Monday, Nov. 18 he will lead the Monday Morning Bible Study for Women and at 7 p.m. give an evening lecture. Call 501.227.0000 for details.

--**First, Yellville** is having an inside and outside work day on Nov. 16 to get the church ready for Thanksgiving and Advent seasons.

--**First, Siloam Springs** is collecting non-perishable foods for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for those in need in their community.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** begins Advent Studies and Luncheons on Dec. 4 and will study the works of C. S. Lewis.

--Veterans were honored and their memorabilia displayed on Nov. 10, which was also Stewardship Sunday at **Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay**.

--**First, Clarksville** offers "coffee talks" off-site on a Monday night to discuss what it means to use the vocabulary of faith in a Presbyterian context. On Oct. 14 the group discussed "To Dunk or Not to Dunk: the Meaning of Baptism."

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** hosts and sponsors 8 elementary and middle school basketball teams for "at risk" children each Saturday in their gym with an average participation of 130 children who are fed at the end of their games.

--**First, Newport** is participating in a "Koats for Kids" drive for Newport school students with distribution on Dec. 7.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** hosted a flu shot clinic on Oct. 18 and a festival on Halloween night for children from the community.

--**First, Hot Springs** Presbyterian Women are sewing "Little Dresses for Africa" for young girls on Nov. 14.

--**First, Conway** has introduced UKirk interns for the college term: Jordan Akin, a senior at Hendrix College and a member of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and Amanda Elmore, a senior at UCA and a member of Westminster, Hot Springs. They will help the church connect with local college students.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** is hosting a Cokesbury day on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** collects toiletries, sheets and blankets to donate to Salvation Army.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** hosted residents of the children's shelter with a cookout in the church playground on Oct. 26.

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LYON COLLEGE, BATESVILLE TO HOST FEBRUARY 2014 PRESBYTERY MEETING

On Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22, 2014 the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 125th stated meeting at Lyon College, Batesville.

Registration will begin at 2:15 p.m. on Friday with Healthy Boundaries workshop running from 2:45 until 5:45 p.m., and Annual clerks of session training, DIY Church Websites and Using Social Media in the Church workshops set for 3:45-5:45.

Evening meal is on your own with dining hall open. Business in Brown Chapel begins at 6:30 with worship at 7:15 p.m. highlighted by the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper,

sermon by outgoing moderator Ruling Elder Sheree Niece and installation of new moderator Teaching Elder Clare Kelley, and reception following in Bevan Music Room. Worship offering recipient is the Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship at Lyon College.

Saturday's schedule in the new Student Union will be 7:45 continental breakfast, 8:30 gavel, morning prayers including installation of vice moderator Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson and business and lunch to follow while meeting around tables.

Highlights of the meeting will be presence of Youth at Presbytery delegates, the annual State of the Presbytery report by the General Presbyter, Ferncliff Board report and voting on the 2014 budget. Watch for the packets for this meeting to be posted by Jan. 31.

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Q: If we have a disaster or emergency, we'll have to hurry up and communicate with all our members. What's the best way?

A: How about using your congregation's telephone tree? Or, if you don't have one yet, set one up. Here's a way to do it.

Recruit one caller for each 10-12 family units in the congregation. Give each caller a list of families to call along with their phone numbers (cellphone numbers and landlines), email addresses, and physical addresses. Authorize one person, either the pastor or designee, to trigger the phone calling. Then you'll be able to activate the phone tree if you have to cancel worship or you need to warn of a pending weather emergency or you have any compelling reason to communicate in a hurry.

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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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

--Susan Cooley, First, Newport writes about the kit "**Boundaries in Dating: Making Dating Work**" by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend (Acc. #VC7677) which is a 10-session study with video, leader's guide, workbook, book, and audio.



Cooley has junior and senior high students in class. "We used the video as a springboard. We have spent a week making a list of dating ideas. I used a flip chart and they could take a picture of the list with their phones. This week we are going to use the video to launch another list-making project. Our lists this week will be what are the qualities/attributes/priorities you are looking for in a "date" and what are the qualities/attributes/priorities you are looking for in a "mate". We will wrap it all up with my great grandmother's words to my mother when she was a teenager, "Never date a boy you wouldn't want to marry."

--Roger Bates, First, Yellville wrote "Everyone (in their adult class) really enjoyed '**Adam Hamilton's Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White**' (Acc. #DVD9185). Very timely!"

--Jenny Chapman, Resource Center Director, Presbytery of South Alabama recommends "**Deeper Connections: The Miracles of Jesus**" (Acc. #DVD8946) as "good for a group that is starting out and/or hasn't done much Bible study." This six-session study for adults includes a DVD and participant's book.

ADVENT IDEAS

"**Wee Sing for Christmas**" (Acc. #CD9125) for children is a 64-page book with sheet music and fingerplays and a one-hour music CD.

"**Worship Feast: Advent & Christmas, Complete Worship Outlines for Advent and Christmas**" for youth (Acc. #BK9745) includes a book of art projects, prayer stations, meditations, lectio divina and a CD with five Advent and Christmas worship songs with guitar chords and lyrics.

James W. Moore's "Christmas Gifts that won't break" (Acc. #BK9482) is a set of four-session booklets by the popular author-one Advent study for children, one for youth and one for adults-examining the lasting gifts of the season: hope, love, joy and peace.

INTRIGUING TITLES FOR THE NEW YEAR

"**Nearing Home**" by Rev. Billy Graham (Acc. #BK9749)

"**If the Church Were Christian**" by Philip Gulley (Acc. #BK9744)

Alban's "In Search of the Unchurched" by Alan C. Klaas (Acc. #BK9742)

"**Christianity After Religion**" by Diana Butler Bass (Acc. #BK9750)

"**Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing**" by Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago (Acc. #BK9727)

FREE FOR THE TAKING

The Presbytery Office is retiring an older Gateway laptop model no. Solo 1450 with case, first come, first served.

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS CHANGE

Beginning in January, 2014 I will ordinarily be in the Resource Center on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Self-service hours in the Resource Center will continue as 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Friday and in January, Thursday will be added as self-service. If the latter days are best for your visits, I'll gladly gather resources for you to pick up and as usual, I'll mail resources to patrons on the days I'm here.

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

Save the Date!

Jr. High Youth - join the Presbytery of Arkansas at the
Jr. High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch!

July 6-10, 2014

Current 6th-8th graders invited
For information on this trip and other summer trips in 2014, [click here to download a brochure!](#)

**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.
(Presbytery's Youth Ministry received funding from
Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.)

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Administrative Commission Installs Pastor Frank LeBlanc

On Sunday, October 13th, 2013, an Administrative Commission of the presbytery installed **Rev. Frank LeBlanc** as pastor at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church (Little Rock).



Front Row (left to right): Rev. Dari Rowen, Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith, Elder Connie Wear, Elder David

**Stricklin,
Back Row (left to right) Rev. Robert Lowry, Presbytery moderator Sherée Niece, Rev. Frank LeBlanc, Rev.
Bill Bailey**

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Presbytery Welcomes Nominations Suggestions

The Committee on Nominations asks for your suggestions for names of people who would be good candidates to serve on presbytery committees. You may submit these names by completing the Nominations Form at the following link: [2014 Nominations Form](#).

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United Campus Ministry News

Would you like to follow what's going on at United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas? We have an app for that! Download the UCM app on your iPhone, iPad and Android to follow our events. A generous grant from the Synod allowed us to launch this idea of how we share the Good News in the 21st century on a college campus.

The Presbytery of Arkansas was well represented at Columbia Theological Seminary's discernment weekend on 11/1-11/2. Five students traveled to Decatur, GA to learn about CTS and next steps in following God's call in their lives.



Pictured: Katherine Norwood (UofA), Jordan Akin (Hendrix College), Andy Spaulding (UofA), David Mills (UofA), and Max Hill (UofA). These students participate in collegiate ministry at United Campus Ministry at the UofA and UKirk Conway.

For information about upcoming "UKirk" events, [click here](#) for a flyer. Highlights include:

--Montreat College Conference in Montreat, NC (Jan 2-5, 2014)

(UCM receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education)

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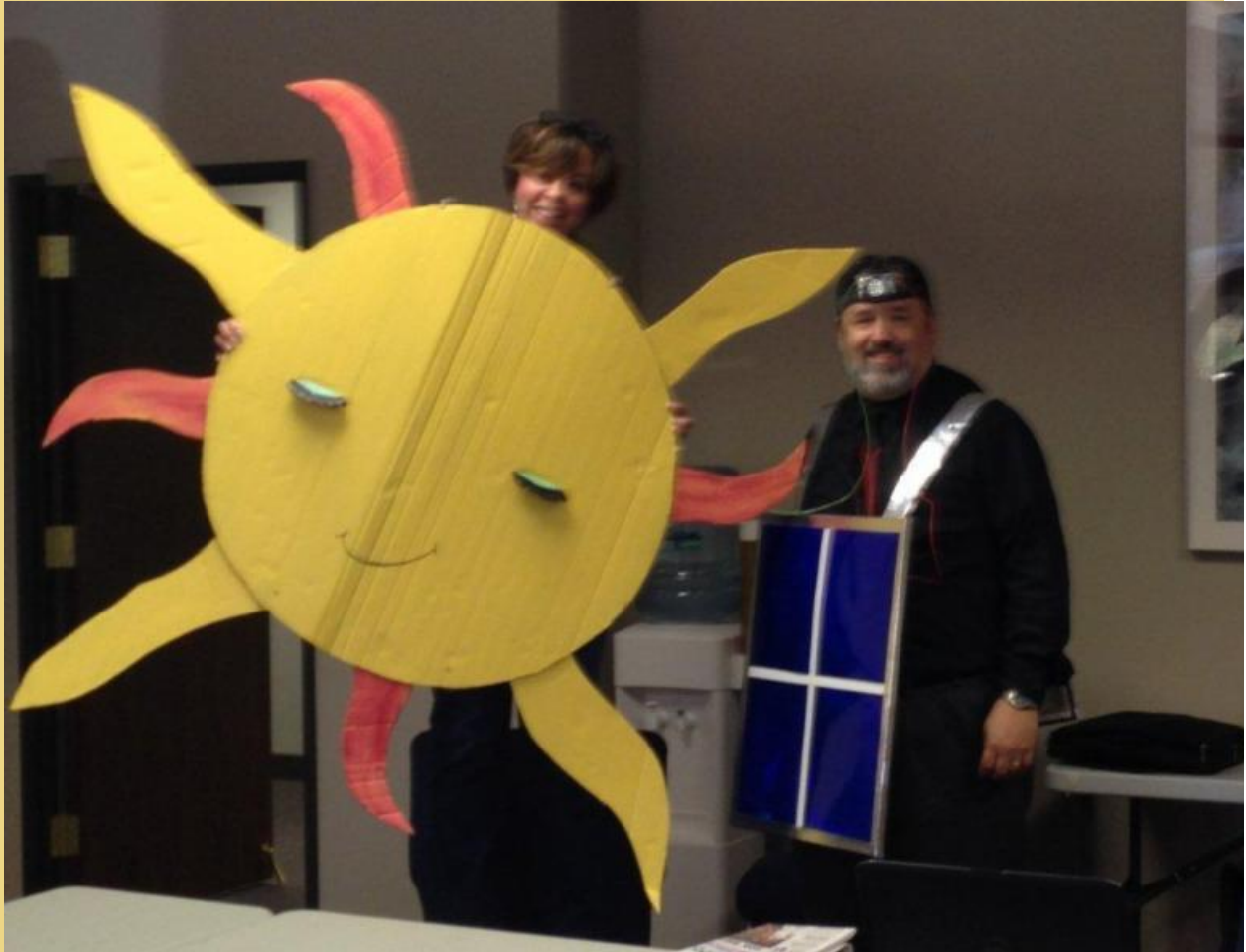
Pulaski Heights Celebrates Centennial

Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church (Little Rock) celebrated their centennial on Nov. 13, 2013. Pictured below (center) is the Rev. Dr. Chuck Campbell who grew up at Pulaski Heights and now teaches homiletics at Duke Divinity School.



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Synod Co-Leaders Lift Up Solar Under the Sun



Synod Co-Leaders, Valerie Knox and Dan Saperstein, lift up the ministry of Solar Under the Sun at the November 1-2, meeting of the Synod of the Sun.

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Mediation Skills Training Event -- January, 2014

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders will be presented **January 20-24, 2014** at **Ferndcliff Camp & Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas**. A combination of lectures, discussion and guided practice in role plays, the training will equip people in skills for mediating interpersonal, multi-party, and congregational conflict.

The event is sponsored by the Presbytery of Arkansas (PCUSA), and is open to participants of other denominations.

For registration information, call the **Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith**, General Presbyter, at **501-663-2424, ext. 101**, or email **bill@presbyteryofarkansas.org**.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2014 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 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>