



March 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Drinking from Different Wells"

Perhaps it's a function of getting older. Maybe it's different for you but I regularly find myself wondering about the multitude of things of which I know so little. Curiosity leads us to explore, to, "drink from different wells," with the idea that life becomes deeper as we learn from others.

Dr. Mehmet Ulupinar was one of the first to greet me as I began work as your General Presbyter in 2009. He extended welcome to Little Rock and invited me to participate in conversations offered by the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest (formerly known as the Institute of Interfaith Dialogue). The Institute's purpose is to help people of the world understand how to live in peace and harmony.

Dr. Ulupinar and his colleagues from the Raindrop Turkish House have extended friendship and hospitality to many in this community joining people from different faiths in consideration of ways by which we may live toward the mutual positive regard for others. One effort of the Institute toward this end is the sponsorship of cultural exchange trips.

On Friday, ten of us from the Little Rock area will leave on one of the Institute's trips. Our travel will provide occasion to witness how people of different faiths and cultures coexist. We will arrive in Turkey, an historic crossroads of civilizations where East and West intersect. There, we'll tour many well known sites but our purpose is to have first-hand interaction with local people, to, "drink from their wells." We will visit schools, mosques, churches, businesses and in the homes of people from various Turkish communities. Ours is not an ordinary tour but an opportunity to engage with people of a different culture, religion and tradition.

Michael Vinson, Director of Vital Congregations, and I will join other travelers from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions on this journey. Please pray that these days will offer a taste of refreshment and bear the fruit of commitment to faith with respectful understanding, even friendship.

Your partner in ministry,

Bill

General Presbytery's Out of Office Schedule:

March

21-30 Leave for Interfaith Cultural Exchange, Turkey

31 Return to Houston from Istanbul, Turkey



April

- 1 Return from Houston to Little Rock
- 5 Care & Nurture of Church Professionals Committee, First, Conway
- 6 Ordination/Installation, Liz Wagner, Bella Vista
- 9-13 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees, Hunt, Texas
- 22 Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, Ferncliff

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Church Employment Opportunities in or near our Presbytery

Christian Education Director -- First Presbyterian Church of Texarkana, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Christian Education Director to oversee and develop the overall educational program of the church. The current emphasis for this position will be on development of children's ministry with some support of youth and other educational ministry. For a job description, click this link: <http://www.firstprestexarkana.org/wp-content/uploads/DCE.pdf>. Resumes may be emailed to 1stpresbytxk@cableone.net. For questions about the position please call either of the search committee's co-moderators: Jeff Daniels, 1-903-280-1424 or Corey Sharp, 1-903-556-7853.

Director of Family Ministries -- First Presbyterian Church of Rogers, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Director of Family Ministries to develop, plan, and implement the Christian education programs for children and youth. Resumes may be emailed to rfpc.ss@gmail.com.

Chief Executive Officer of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Inc. -- Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is seeking a Chief Executive Officer who will oversee all operational aspects of the organization. For a two-page description of the position, [click here](#) to visit the "Current Opportunities" section of the presbytery's website. Resumes and letters of interest are being accepted through April 15, 2014 at the following email address: searchcommittee@veralloyd.org.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--**Rev. John and Sally King** announce the arrival of a new grandchild Knox Eric Ogden, son of Sally's daughter Jean Kelley Ogden, born on Feb 19 in Fayetteville. John is pastor of First, Prairie Grove.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. and Mrs. David Gill** and family on the death of his mother Lois Ella Gill in Little Rock on March 17th. David is executive director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.

--**Grant Meacham** has begun duties as organist/musician at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock.

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Ruling Elder Betsy Harris** of Dardanelle who died on March 3. She was a member of First, Dardanelle and a member of presbytery's Committee on Congregational Care and Development.

--**Rev. Jane Huffstetler** has completed her service as transitional pastor at First, Harrison. She is a minister member of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.

--**Rev. Larry Mitchell** is recuperating from a heart procedure at Cleveland Clinic. He is pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City and a member of the presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.

--**Shannon Kiser** and **Philip Lotspeich** (pictured below) recently led a retreat on forming new ministries.



--**Becky Purcell**, a candidate for ministry from Columbia Seminary under care of this presbytery, is doing an internship at United Campus Ministry in Fayetteville and First, Prairie Grove this spring before her graduation.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** has set Saturday, April 5, as a Day of Service by church

members to the agencies and projects that the church supports year-round.

--**Holiday Island Presbyterian** plans a movie field trip to see "Son of God" with a meal and discussion following.

--Palm Sunday Evening Service for **First, Alma** and **Mountainburg** Presbyterians will be hosted by **First, Van Buren**.

--**First, Huntsville** began in March to host a mobile outreach van for services to homeless people one Tuesday a month.

--**First, Jacksonville** and **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** are planning joint youth group activities.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** plans to receive a special offering on World Water Day, March 23, to benefit Living Waters of the World and Solar Under the Sun.

--**First, Springdale** and **First, Bentonville** plan a joint women's retreat on April 4-5 in Huntsville.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** participated in roadside pick-up on March 1.

--**First, Newport** had a church workday on Feb. 1.

--**First, Fort Smith** had a workday to construct Chrismos for Advent use.

--**First, Siloam Springs** had an all-church Bunco night on March 7 and will observe the Passover Seder Meal on April 2.

--**First, Batesville** hosted a pancake supper and Ash Wednesday service on March 5.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** began their Faith Is Central Campaign on Feb. 9.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** offers collection and delivery to recycling centers in town of plastic bags, plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, metal and aluminum cans.

--**First, Yellville** held a workshop on understanding, building and using a labyrinth on March 8.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** sends out an email "Weekly Word" which includes a morning and evening household prayer.

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[Resource Center News](#)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas. Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email revruss@gmail.com will be glad to answer your questions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

Look to YOUR Resource Center for a comparison of the available major programs as well as exam kits available on loan for "**Workshop of Wonders**" from Abingdon Press and "**Gangway to Galilee**" from Concordia as well as numerous undated and permanent kits. We also have some kits available for the taking for the smaller VBS programs.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR LENTEN READING

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" (Acc. #BK9760), "Hermie, a Common Caterpillar" (Acc. #BK9761), "Hope for the Flowers" (Acc. #BK9765), "God Made It for You!" (Acc. #BK9766), "The Shema in the Mezuzah" (Acc. #BK9768), "Why Do We Have to Be So Quiet in Church?" (Acc. #BK9769), "Children of Bible Lands" (Acc. #BK9716).

ADULT BOOKS FOR LENTEN READING

"The Great Emergence" (Acc. #BK9739) by Phyllis Tickle
"Glimpses of Glory: Year C" (Acc. #BK9741); "Journey Through the Word" (Acc. #BK9762);
"Simply Jesus" (Acc. #BK9764) and "Simply Christian" (Acc. #BK9773), both by N. T. Wright
"Holy Clarity" (Acc. #BK9771); "Jesus, The Final Days" (Acc. #BK9703)
"Good Grief" (Acc. #BK529) the 50th anniversary edition of the classic

DVDS FOR LENTEN VIEWING

"Jesus of Nazareth" (Acc. #DVD9677), "Max Lucado: God's Story, Your Story" (Acc. #DVD9682),
"Embracing a Life of Meaning" (Acc. #DVD9683), "Soul Searching" (Acc. #DVD9690),
"Bonhoeffer-Pastor, Pacifist" (Acc. #DVD9691), "Called to Health, Called to Wholeness" (Acc. #DVD9695), "Forgiveness" (Acc. #DVD9728), "St. Peter" (Acc. #DVD9756)

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS

Continuing this month I am ordinarily in the Resource Center only on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Self-service hours in the Resource Center are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday. If these latter days are the 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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First, Hot Springs to Host June Presbytery Meeting

First Presbyterian Church (Hot Springs) will host the 126th Stated Meeting of Presbytery on Saturday, June 7th. Make plans now to attend.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

It's not too late to register for summer trips!

We are still accepting registrations for Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch (current grades 6-8) and the Montreat Youth Conference (current grades 8-12)! We have great groups signed up for each of these trips and would love to have you or your youth join us!! Check out the Presbytery website for more information, or email britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org!

Senior High YouthQuake 2014

Thanks to all who planned, helped, led, brought young people, and attended! It was a fabulous weekend!



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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Pink Hat Day Celebration at Vera Lloyd Coming Soon!

Vera Lloyd will host more than 100 women at the 2014 Pink Hat Day and Presbyterian Women spring gathering at the children's home in Monticello on Saturday, April 26. Please make plans to be part of the celebration.

This year's Pink Hat Day will begin at 9 a.m. with tours of campus, including two homes, followed by a campus update, introductions of youth and staff, the Pink Hat Day parade, awards and lunch.

Business meetings for the Arkansas Presbytery PW and Presbytery of the Pines PW will begin after lunch.

"This is the first year we've been able to host both the Presbyterian Women's meetings and Pink Hat Day on our campus," Lyn Whaley, Vera Lloyd CEO, said. "We are thrilled to recognize these ladies for all they do for our youth."

Bring your embellished pink hat and join the party! Please RSVP to Melissa Hendricks by April 7 by phone at 501-666-8195 or email at melissahendricks@veralloyd.org

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Save the Date for "The P.L.A.C.E."

The Christian Education Committee invites everyone to "The P.L.A.C.E" seminar to be held Saturday, August 9th at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. "P.L.A.C.E." is an acronym for **P**resbytery **L**eadership **A**cademy for **C**ongregational **E**nrichment.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ken McFayden, Dean of the Leadership Institute, Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Virginia. He is also the author of: [Strategic Leadership for Change: Facing our Losses, Finding our Future.](#)

This is a wonderful opportunity for many different types of church leaders (clergy, elders, deacons, and laity) and many different ages (Kids Kamp led by Ferncliff counselors, Youth workshops and/or mission projects, workshops for ministers and CREs). There are special savings for congregations that register groups for this event!

For more information, [click here to download a brochure.](#)

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Mission Coworker Sarah Henken Available for Speaking Engagements

Sarah Henken, a mission coworker in the Andean region of South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia and Peru), will be available for speaking engagements in Arkansas March 31-April 6. To view her flyer, [click here](#). Sarah will be at Ferncliff March 25-30 for a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) discernment weekend and is staying in Arkansas the following week to talk with churches/schools/other groups about the Andean region and about opportunities for mission connections there. Sarah's email address is: sarah.henken@pcusa.org

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UCM Featured in Mission Yearbook



United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville was featured in the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study on Saturday, March 8th. The article tells of the fellowship lunch UCM sponsors every Monday for college students in the area. To read the article, [click here!](#)

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Hendrix College Presents Lecture Series

Hendrix College presents "The Word in the World" Lecture Series -- "On Living Christian Faith"

Thursday, March 20: **Walter Brueggemann** presents *"Dialogic Life in a Monologic Culture."*

Thursday, April 10: **Peter Rollins** presents *"The Divine Magician: Christ & The Vanishing Act of God"*

Both events are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Robert Williamson, Jr. at 501-505-1559 or visit www.facebook.com/wordinworld.

For a brochure, [click here](#).

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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 [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)

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 [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [SHERÉE NIECE](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

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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>