



**April 2014**

# **The Banner**

**Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

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## "Cave Dwellers and Other Beleaguered Saints"

The New Testament Letter to the Hebrews speaks in chapter eleven of faith as, "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." It goes on, telling of Abel who, though he was killed, by faith continues to speak, of Abraham who by faith obeyed when called to go out to the unknown place, of Moses who by the faith of his unafraid parents was hid from Pharaoh's infanticide and the same Moses who by faith chose to share the ill treatment of his kindred instead of the pleasure of appeasement. Others are mentioned who "suffered mocking and scourging and even chains and imprisonment." Still more, "were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth..."



In Cappadocia, Turkey, two weeks ago, we explored caves carved underground or high into cliffs where, in an earlier era, believers hounded by oppressors retreated. Their lives were precariously at risk for their dogged devotion to God, the One who commanded wholehearted, singular commitment. Instead of bowing to imperial pressure and, "going along to get along," they resisted. They were targeted with death yet did not give in. The caves to which they fled are dark and narrow and press in upon all who must stoop to move about. They are crude, descend into the dark and, if one tends toward claustrophobia, can be downright scary.



Being a believer these days is not so edgy, at least not here. We don't worry about being hunted down because we believe differently, not here. In fact, there's little

challenge to following a conveniently fashioned God who caters to what we want. But substituting what's less than God for God was and continues to be problematic. When personal piety loses its societal conscience and the principalities and powers are given their head, what should be our, "by faith," commitment? It threatens none and feels oh so cozy when all speak well of us. But when the reign of God and God's righteousness become the focus, look out. Back when by faith they envisioned a different world, where justice and mercy would prevail, they wound up being chased into the hills where holes in the ground became home. The gospel is that compelling, that threatening. An odd way of communicating God's love for all the world. Even stranger that we continue to live convinced of its truth.

Your partner on the way,

*Bill*

General Presbytery's Out of Office Commitments:

April

8 Meet with FPC, Pocahontas

9-13 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees, Hunt, Texas

17 Visit in Western Part of Presbytery

17-20 Easter Celebration in Oklahoma

22 Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, Ferncliff

22 Presbyterian Village Event, Little Rock

May

3 Ferncliff Board Meeting

4 Preach, FPC, Van Buren

6-10 Board of Pensions, Western Benefits Consultation, San Diego

28-29 Board Meeting, Vera Lloyd

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:searchcommittee@veralloyd.org).

**Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program Site Coordinator** -- Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, Arkansas is seeking a Site Coordinator to oversee five Young Adult Volunteers serving in the PC(USA) YAV Program. This is a salaried, part-time (20 hours/week) position that will coordinate the work of the YAVs and the collaboration between local agencies, staff, governing board, and other volunteers. For further information or to apply, please contact Rev. Lindy Vogado at 501-227-000 or send resume and cover letter to her at Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr., Little Rock, AR 72227. For a full description of this opportunity, [click here](#).

**Membership Secretary** -- First United Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville) has an opening for a Membership Secretary (12 hours/week including Fridays) who is responsible for managing membership records and changes, preparing memorial letters and other mailings, and assisting with bulletins. Requires proficient computer skills (Shelby Database) and strong people skills. Job may be combined with Food Events Coordinator listed below. Complete descriptions are available at [www.fupcfay.org](http://www.fupcfay.org). You may email your resume to [mail@fupcfay.org](mailto:mail@fupcfay.org) or mail to First United PC, 695 E. Calvin St., Fayetteville, AR 72703

**Food Events Coordinator** -- First United Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville) has an opening for a Food Events Coordinator (10 hours/week including Sunday mornings and many Wednesday evenings). Food Events Coordinator provides warm hospitality, arranges for use of kitchens, and coordinates meal support. Strong people skills required. Job may be combined with Membership Secretary listed above. Complete descriptions are available at [www.fupcfay.org](http://www.fupcfay.org). You may email your resume to [mail@fupcfay.org](mailto:mail@fupcfay.org) or mail to First United PC, 695 E. Calvin St., Fayetteville, AR 72703

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## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Rev. Dr. Donald Corley**, 87, of Arkadelphia who died on March 25, 2014. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of AR. A native of Oklahoma, Corley graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and New Orleans Baptist University. He directed pastoral care at a hospital before pastoring Presbyterian churches in TX and LA and served as pastor of First, Arkadelphia from 1979 to 1988. After retirement in 1991, he served as interim pastor of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, taught philosophy at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, and authored nine books. He is survived by daughters Betty Corley and Cindy Viala, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The funeral service was graveside at Rest Haven Cemetery in Arkadelphia on Saturday afternoon, March 29 with Rev. Kendal Land officiating.

--Congratulations to **Rev. Steve and Missie Hancock** on the birth of a grandson Bryce Stephen Hancock to Matt and Emily Hancock on March 1 in Florence, Alabama. Steve is head of staff and a pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Kerry Hird** has completed service as Director of Youth Ministries and Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs.

--**Ruling Elder Jackson Farrow, Jr.** from Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and **Rev. Jennifer L. Lord**, a minister member of AR Presbytery, are serving on the Board of Trustees of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs youth** plan to participate in the 30-Hour Famine on April 25-26.

--**First, Prairie Grove** anticipates a Passover Service with Communion on Holy Thursday, April 17.

--**Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** will host the Cluster 6 Joint Good Friday service on April 18 with the University of the Ozarks choral group singing the message.

--**First, Van Buren** men will share breakfast on April 19, then clean up a member's yard to prepare for the sale of the home.

--**First, Eureka Springs** will host Good Friday service for their congregation and that of **Holiday Island Presbyterian**.

--**First, Pine Bluff** is community partner with Belair Middle School, to whom the congregation donated school uniforms and supplies plus winter coats. The school reciprocated with 1300 canned goods that the church passed on to Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry and the Salvation Army.

--**First, Conway** is holding classes for new members on Sunday nights at the home of the interim pastor and plans an Easter Sunrise Service on April 20.

--**First, Little Rock** plans a Church Picnic with hiking and fishing at Ferncliff on April 27 to celebrate Earth Day and is collecting paperback books to provide free to those fed at StewPot feeding ministry at the church.

--**First, Arkadelphia's** Facebook page now allows visitors to listen to the pastor's sermon.

--**First, Benton** continues the Sunday evening Lenten study series "Illuminating Lent" and offers Children's Music Time at 9:30 each Sunday in the sanctuary.

--Thirty-one women from **First, Bentonville** and **First, Springdale** (pictured below) attended their

Women's Retreat April 4-5 at the Ozark Natural Science Center. Rev. Laura Fleetwood keyed the retreat, themed "Set Free for Sabbath."



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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](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas). Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email [revruss@gmail.com](mailto:revruss@gmail.com) will be glad to answer your questions.

### **RAVE REVIEWS**

--Mary Vollman, First, Jonesboro writes "This DVD study '**Adult Crossings: God's Journey with Us**' (Acc. #DVD9532) has been wonderful. It takes three months to do it justice." This kit is subtitled "Because every Christian should know the eight core stories of the Bible" and includes a DVD in 11 segments, each 15 to 20 minutes long, a journal, and a leader guide.

--Emily Laurel, First, Benton writes about "**Illuminating Lent**" by Dr. Donald McKim, the book the congregation studies on Sunday evenings through Lent, as presenting "personal practices that can deepen our spiritual lives, increase our faith and move us to love and care for others in new ways." This book is part of the PCUSA curriculum series "Being Reformed."

--Lisa Hester, musician at First, Benton writes about the 7-week "**Discovering the Psalms--Passion, Promise & Praise**" study from Kerygma (Acc. #BK6412) which she led in another church as fostering appreciation of Psalms. It is "not only...a collection of poems and hymns" but more than a third of the

book consists of laments, "individual and community expressive of negative emotions, not withheld from God." She suggests "begin your psalm reading with sacred history psalms and the psalms of trust (such as the 23rd)." This set includes the leader's guide and resource book in hardcopy and the leader's guide in Adobe Acrobat.

--Theresa Spragins, Director of Christian Education, First, Conway suggests "**The Guidebook**" as a gift for confirmands. This is the student version of the New Revised Standard Bible and "the resources inside look awesome, especially for teens."

--Rev. David Dyer, Westminster, Little Rock is using the 60-page magazine, "**Third Edition: An introduction to all things Presbyterian**" from "**Presbyterians Today**" for adult Sunday School. He says the class is going well and the magazine generates good discussion. YOUR Resource Center has multiple copies for your permanent use at no charge.

**LAST MINUTE EASTER RESOURCES for all age groups and venues for April 20 are available for loan.**

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER**

--With unpredictable attendance for children after school ends, why not just check out one of the "Awesome" series for those in kindergarten through grade 5? "**Awesome Adventures: God's People on Mountains and Seas**" explores Old and New Testament encounters with God on the mountains and the waters (Noah, Moses on Mount Sinai, Jesus calms the storm, and is transfigured on the mountaintop). Then there's "**Awesome Adventures: God's Amazing Kids**" including Isaac, Miriam, young Jeremiah, 12-year-old Jesus and more. Finally there's "**Awesome Adventures: God's Amazing Son**" featuring the story of the lost sheep, Jesus blessing the children, Zacchaeus, the widow's money, the good neighbor, and the weather obeying Jesus.

### **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](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)*

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## **Administrative Commission Ordains and Installs Liz Wagner**

On Sunday, April 6th, 2014, an Administrative Commission of the presbytery ordained and installed **Liz Wagner** as Associate Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista.



Front row (left to right): Gini Hudson\*, Jannica Friete, Liz Wagner, Jan Butin\*, Lynn Monroe\*  
Second row (left to right): Dennis Ritchie, Susan Rose\*, Susan Anderson\*, Stewart Smith\*, Bernie Hietbrink\*, Clare Kelley\*, Jack McFayden.  
(\* Indicates members of the Installation Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Others pictured and General Presbyter, Bill Galbraith, sat with the commission.)  
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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](mailto:britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org)!*

*Exciting News about Montreat Youth Conference!!*

*Due to some extra funds in our budget, we are able to decrease the fee*



for our Presbytery trip to the Montreat Youth Conference from \$815 to \$699!! We already have 16 great youth signed up, and we would love to add you to this list!

Information on both of these trips can be found here: <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%202014%20-%20Info%20and%20Registration%20form.pdf>

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**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](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.

(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 phone at 501-666-8195 or email at [melissahendricks@veralloyd.org](mailto: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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## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

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

**Q: We haven't had a disaster in a while. So what can we do to keep the next big one from being so disastrous?**

A: Cut tree branches/trees away from your buildings (ice storm, wind damage prevention). Clean out outdoor drains (flood prevention). Check hoses on dishwashers and washers (indoor flood prevention). Make a photo inventory of your church's belongings (theft and damage recovery). Put up signs to mark "Tornado Shelter" spaces. Have a fire drill during worship.

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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### **UCM in Fayetteville Ready to Welcome New Razorbacks!**

If you have a graduating high school senior who will be attending the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville next year, please let us know! We'd like to send a gift for any 'Senior Celebration' or 'Recognition Sunday' that your church may have. We would also like to connect with them through social media over the summer. Contact Rev. Susan Rose at [ucm\\_chaplain@yahoo.com](mailto:ucm_chaplain@yahoo.com) or call the UCM office at 479-442-8041. Go Hogs!

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**Hendrix College Presents Lecture Series**

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

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

This event is 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](http://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](#)

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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>

**[Forward to a Friend](#)**

Presbytery of Arkansas | 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd. | Little Rock | AR | 72227