

August 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Picking Up the Pace"

"What do you do for fun?" That's a question to which I usually answer, "Run; I like to run." Now, "run," is used loosely since my pace is quite leisurely. It's sometimes difficult to catch the fast walkers just ahead. You get the picture. Normally, I run by myself because running alone is a good way to think through the day ahead, reflect and pray. Over the years, however, I've not gotten any faster; not running any farther either. While running alone allows pleasant contemplation, I'll not get much better at it going solo. Improving time, distance and condition will take someone challenging me to run a little faster, a little farther.



My college suitemate, Jack, was the challenger when, years back, we decided to tackle the White Rock Marathon in Dallas. Jack was an All-American hurdler and volunteered to run with me that Sunday in northeast Dallas. We began together at the American Airlines Center but soon Jack was far ahead. Had he not continued to circle back and accompany me during those miles toward the end, completing the White Rock might not have happened. The neat thing about it is that Jack wanted me to finish. He wanted to help me accomplish a goal which he had completed many times over.

The Letter to the Hebrews picks up the positive influence of those who go before us, the "cloud of witnesses," who encourage us in completing the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1-2). The race may not be the one we have anticipated but the one we are, nevertheless, given. Caring encouragers are as important to our spiritual growth as to our physical fitness. Without challenge, we drift into status quo faith. But something comes along to shake us. For some, that shaking has been the recent decisions of the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly. We may be in agreement with these decisions or not but regardless of our viewpoint, they prod us to consider what we believe and why. Because we see things differently, they push us to consider the Bible not just from our familiar and, perhaps unchallenged, vantage points. They lead us to examine original contexts when confronted by the Bible's hard texts. They bother us into asking if what we think a passage means is consistent with and supported by other scripture. They invite us to wonder, "Could there be another interpretation in alignment with the witness to a sovereign God intent on reconciling all creation through Jesus Christ?" The spirit of unity for which Jesus prayed prods us to ask, "Is my preferred way of viewing the Bible promoting this unity?" Otherwise, we may confidently jog along assured that we have the "right" answer others are missing. But should we be puzzled that others interpret the Bible quite differently from us, we may seek to understand them. We may be sufficiently

troubled by different takes on the very passages we've used to validate our positions that we begin to listen to others. Scripture seen through different but equally faithful eyes may give us pause to reflect instead of argue. It may not. I wonder, though if that which troubles us is just the encouragement we need in times of disagreement. In our current challenge lies opportunity to press on, faithfully running the race set before us looking to Jesus the pioneer, perfecter, and yes, challenger of our faith. Might it be that we will run better with each other, even if we have to double back?

Hope fully yours,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

August

- 16 General Committee, FPC, Conway
- 17 Worship and Talk It Over, FPC, Pine Bluff
- 18-20 Theological Education Fund, McCormick Seminary, Chicago
- 22 Solar Under the Sun Board Meeting, Ferncliff
- 23 Budget Hearings, Little Rock
- 24 Worship, Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs
- 24 Ordination/Installation of Becky Purcell, United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville, and First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove

September

- 07 Preach and Lead Worship, FPC, Bentonville
- 09 COM meeting, FPC, Conway
- 13-21 Vacation
- 24-25 Vera Lloyd Board Meeting, Monticello
- 28 Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville, 175th Anniversary

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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 Christian Education and Youth -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock, Arkansas has begun a search for a creative, energetic person of faith interested in leading its ministries of Christian Education and Youth. The position is 20 hours per week, with salary and schedule negotiable. We are hoping to find one person interested in and able to lead both of these areas of ministry. Depending on applicants, however, the position might be split. Please send resumes to parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net. Questions or inquiries may be sent to the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington at (ggarlington3@hotmail.com or 501-940-8008).

Part Time Music Director -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to direct the chancel choir, hand bell choir, and praise band, with occasional youth/children's choir, meet with the pastor to plan music for worship, and direct all choir practices. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

Part Time Organist/Pianist -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to play the organ and piano for Sunday worship and other services as needed, work with the music director, and meet with the pastor to plan music for worship. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Revs. Phil and Jan Butin** on the death of Phil's father James "Walker" Butin on Aug. 7 in Wichita, KS. The Butins are co-pastors of First United, Fayetteville and Phil is a member of presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

--First, Arkadelphia Session thanks their outgoing pastor **Rev. Kendal Land** for his ministry and sends prayers for the journey to his new call as pastor of First, Longview (TX).

--Christian sympathy goes to Trudy Sohn and family on the death of her husband **Bob Sohn** on July 26 in Wynne. His service was in Forrest City on July 30 with Rev. Larry Mitchell officiating. He served as Commissioned Lay Pastor at First, Brinkley some years ago.

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of Ruling Elder **William Hailey Dunklin**, 92, who died on July 31. He was active in presbytery service for decades and served as moderator in 1988. A service of witness to the resurrection was conducted by Rev. Susan Wiggins, transitional pastor, at First, Pine Bluff on August 4.

--First, Fort Smith has welcomed **Rebekah Bateman** as the new Communications Director for the church.

--**Jim Hays** has resigned as Commissioned Ruling Elder at Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins effective July 31. He is a member of First, Conway.

--**Rev. Maetta Snyder** is providing pastoral care at First, Monticello, a church in Presbytery of the Pines (southern AR and northern LA). She is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

--**Whitney Bordelon** has resigned as Director of Youth and Christian Education at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock to teach public school. See advertisement for position elsewhere in The Banner.

--**Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Bennett** have moved from Searcy to Port St. Lucie, FL. He is pastor emeritus of First, Searcy and an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

--**Rev. and Mrs. Bill Rail** have moved from Rogers to Little Rock. He is pastor emeritus of First, Springdale and an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**United Campus Ministry, Fayetteville** will host for the fifth year thousands of incoming freshmen women, offering hospitality as a rest station during University of Arkansas' Sorority Recruitment Week Aug. 17-23.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** receives requests for utility assistance only on Tuesday and Wednesday and opens its Food Room on the first Monday from 4 to 6 p.m.

--Youth at **First, Jacksonville** worked at AR Rice Depot recently, and the congregation offers breakfast before Sunday School and worship three Sundays a month.

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** collected for three weeks and delivered school supplies to students at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home in Monticello.

--**First, Arkadelphia** will host the Presbyterian Women's Cluster 5 Fall Gathering on Sept. 6, led by Commissioned Ruling Elder Claire Rhodes of West End, Arkadelphia.

--**First, Pine Bluff** Day School begins Aug. 18 and offers three-hour 1/2 day classes or all-day care from 7:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.

--Members and/or staff of the following congregations attended or led workshops at The PLACE leadership event for the Presbytery on Aug. 9: First, Pine Bluff, Harrison, Benton, Mena, Bentonville, El Dorado, Texarkana (Pines Presbytery), Jacksonville, North Little Rock, Springdale, Little Rock, Hot Springs, Searcy, Newport, Malvern, Dardanelle, Harrison, Lonoke, Conway, Yellville, Mountain Home, Clarksville; Second, Little Rock; Central, Fort Smith; West End, Arkadelphia; Central, Pine Bluff; Good Shepherd, Greenwood; Westover Hills, Little Rock; Allison, Little Rock; Northwest AR Larger Parish; First United, Fayetteville; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Barr Memorial, Norman; Holiday Island Presbyterian; Grace, Little Rock; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock; Westminster, Little Rock; Park Hill, North Little Rock; Holly Grove Presbyterian; Trinity, Little Rock; Central, Russellville; Wynne Presbyterian; and Graham Memorial, Forrest City.

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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.



*** We have 4 copies of the 2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$13.75 each. ***

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.

What a joy to be with so many of you at The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment on August 9 at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock! In the tradition of its predecessors (Joint Leader Development [JLD], School on Wheels, and Growing in Faith Together [GIFT]), this event attracted eager learners from all corners of the presbytery and from all sizes and styles of congregations. I was grateful to have Resource Center Advisory Board members Marian Dyer and Sue Rennie as co-presenters in the workshop on the Resource Center which emphasized the good stewardship the center offers.

Following are highlights from a workshop handout we produced to tell the story of how the Resource Center can help your congregation conserve funds while offering quality, current programming:

- 1) We offer an opportunity for free hands-on preview or review of a resource before taking it out on long-term loan or purchasing for local use
- 2) We always have "freebies" to give away from VBS exam kits to duplicate resources or retired resources
- 3) We sometimes have multiple copies of a resource so that your small group may use it for a time without investing in purchase
- 4) We will go 50/50 with your congregation on the purchase of an excellent resource beyond your budget if it fits our collection
- 5) We sometimes purchase from you a successfully used resource at a discount
- 6) Let us know and we will publicize that you have multiples of a resource in your library that you are willing to share
- 7) Sing your own praises if something worked well for you and might for someone else through a "rave review" in The Banner
- 8) We can help you find vetted websites for studies for all ages
- 9) We are your partners in your ministry of developing spiritual growth in and among your church members with advice as well as resources

Fall is almost here! Please be ready for your youngest guests in a prepared and inviting nursery (we have resources for your worker to use!) and consider looking at **"Wee Believe: God's Word for God's People"** for toddlers and preschoolers and **"We Believe"** for younger elementary (grades K-2), older elementary (grades 3-4), and multiage (grades K-5). Is it time to look at the variety of titles for the four-class **"Faith Questions"** mini-courses for older youth, such as "Holy Spirit," "Christianity and...(other religions)," "War," "I Believe," "Prayer," "Sacraments," "Old Testament" and "New Testament"? New titles in the six-session series for adults, **"Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding"** include "1001 Worshiping Communities," "Following Jesus Today: Challenges and Opportunities," "Enough: God's Blessings in Abundance," "Islam and Christianity," and

"Creation." Most include leader's guides.

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS

Continuing this month I am ordinarily in the Resource Center only on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 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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John King Honored at Retirement Celebration



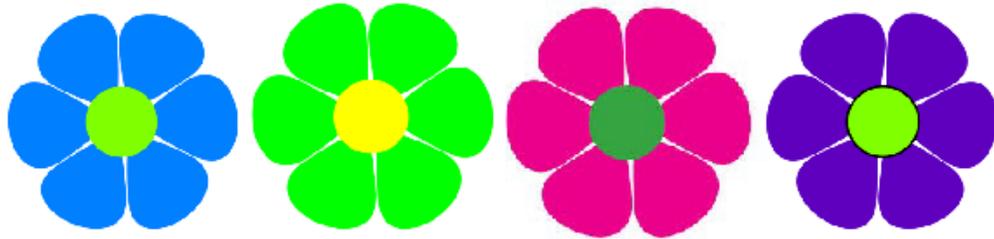
On July 27, 2014 First Presbyterian Church, Prairie Grove thanked Rev. John King

for his many years of service to the church with a retirement celebration. He is pictured above with a painting of the church which was presented to him at a luncheon following Sunday's worship service.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Presbytery of Arkansas
Jr. High Youthquake 2014
September 26-28



Presby Family
Reunion!!
Luke 15: 11-32

Open to all 6th-9th graders and their Adult Advisors

Keynote — back by popular demand: our
Presbytery's College Students!

Music — Steven McConkie

Energizers — Aaron and Sarah Hall

Register by Sept. 5: \$95 per youth/ Adult Advisor

Register by Sept. 12: \$105 per youth/ Advisor

\$80 per Leader Corps (10th-12th grade youth on
Youth Advisory Team and college students)

More information can be found at www.presbyteryofarkansas.org. Registration is done through churches!

Questions? Contact JHYQ Director Olivia McConkie at omcconkie@gmail.com or Mary Shaw, fill-in Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery, at mshaw59@cox.net.

News From the Youth Advisory Team Fall Retreat



The 2014-2015 Youth Advisory Team kicked off the year with its annual Fall Retreat on Aug. 9 and 10! The group is seen in this picture volunteering at the Arkansas Rice Depot as part of The PLACE event. Adult Co-Moderator Bud McConkie (First, Conway) and outgoing Youth Co-Moderator Klari Farzley (Trinity, Little Rock) led a great meeting. Drew Coker (Central, Russellville) was elected as the new Youth Co-Moderator. Youth Events were planned out for the entire year. Please mark your calendar with these important dates for the year!

Jr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) -- Sept. 26-28
Youth Advisory Team Fall Meeting -- Nov. 1
Youth at Presbytery (U. of the Ozarks) -- Feb. 20-21
Sr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) -- March 13-15
Jr. High Jubilee trip to Mo Ranch -- July 5-9
Montreat Youth Conference trip -- July 26-Aug. 1

**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 receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.)

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"The P.L.A.C.E." Exceeds Expectations!

Presbytery's Christian Education Committee, led by moderator and Certified Christian Educator Linda LeBron of Little Rock, presented 29 education, mission and ministry workshops at the Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment (PLACE) event on August 9 at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. From childcare for infants through Mini-Ferndcliff Camp for kids through Youth Advisory Team members learning best youth practices to workshops for adults on clerk training, stewardship, social media, healing through story, church music, conflict transformation and more plus tours of Ferndcliff and AR Rice Depot, there was literally something for everyone.







At least 41 congregations in AR Presbytery (and two from Pines Presbytery) sent 263 leaders, learners, workers and helpers to this initial event. Denominational leaders also brought workshops on the "Glory to God" hymnal, risk management for churches, and

curriculum while Healthy Boundaries were presented for church professionals, deacons, Stephen's Ministers and leaders of youth and children. Thanks go to all who planned, led and attended so that your congregations are off to a great and informed start this fall.

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

Hospitality after a Tornado (or Other Disaster)

Q: We want to help with recovery from the April tornado and are wondering if our church could host volunteer work teams. What does it take to set up a host site?

A: What a great question! We Presbyterians specialize in hospitality, or the art of hosting volunteers, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) can help you decide if your church is called to that ministry. If your church has suitable facilities and is within 30-45 minutes from repair or rebuilding jobs, your church session can study whether to host. Typical commitments are 1-2 years long; churches can decide which weeks or months they want to host and can ask the PDA Call Center (located at Ferncliff) to manage their calendar.

Paula Sights, Mission Elder from FPC Washington (IL), describes the blessings involved in hosting this way:

Washington Presbyterian Church has been on many PDA mission trips. We never and I repeat never imagined we would be a volunteer village for PDA. Then on Nov. 17, 2013 an E4 tornado hit Washington, Illinois. Thanks to early visits from the PDA teams and the follow up calls and emails we put together a place for the teams to call home during their visits to Washington, Illinois. We were very blessed to embrace these teams. They were all wonderful! John 14:12, "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the work that I do and in fact, will do greater works than these."

A PDA video on hosting also tells the story at <http://vimeo.com/78757986>

If you and your church are interested in hosting, please contact the PDA Call Center at 866/732-6121 or pda.callcenter@pcusa.org

Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee

Arkansas Presbyterians Help Tornado Survivors Recover

Thanks to the generosity of Arkansas Presbyterians, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee (DPRC) has committed \$10,000 each to the Mayflower InterFaith and Partners Disaster Alliance (IFPA) and the Vilonia Disaster Recovery Alliance (VDRA). These Long Term Recovery organizations exist primarily to assist people with unmet needs related to the April 27 tornado.

Our Presbyterian contribution goes into a pool of funds acquired from faith-based and community-spirited organizations and individuals. After a case management process, the organizations' boards decide how to apply available funds to help survivors whose own resources plus FEMA and insurance (if available) does not cover the cost of home repair or rebuild.

In many cases, volunteers will be needed to help with repairs and reconstruction. Both long-term recovery organizations (IFPA and VDRA) need people who are interested and experienced in working on construction, fundraising, case management, and volunteer management.

About a dozen or more Presbyterians are already directly involved with the two Long Term Recovery Organizations.

More, many more, volunteers are needed. The recovery time for the April 27th tornado is estimated to be from two to three years. If you feel called to respond to this need, contact your pastor, your mission committee or a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas DPRC: RE James Anderson jandersonret@gmail.com, RE Liz Branch erbranch@comcast.net, RE Zac Cosner arkbear@gmail.com, TE Bob Hadley rwhadley@artelco.com, RE Jeremy Hightower jeremyhightower@yahoo.com, RE Scott Howard patandscotth0103@att.net, RE Betty Powell bbpowell121@comcast.net, RE Barbara Webb gann@up-link.net and TE Susie Wiggins susie.carter.wiggins@gmail.com

--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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United Campus Ministry Update

United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) welcomes all students to their activities for the Fall and Spring semesters. The group has many opportunities for students--visiting UCM at a "rest station" during sorority recruitment, being a leader at YouthQuakes, attending the Montreat College Conference, and more. For a full brochure, [click here](#).

This past summer, Max Hill from UCM in Fayetteville served as an intern for the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. The Rev. W. Mark Koenig (Director of Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations) says, "I am grateful to all who have played a role in Max's formation and am grateful that our ministry has now played a small part in his life." For the full article, visit the following link: <http://www.pcusa.org/blogs/swords-plowshares/tags/max%20hill>.

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Vera Lloyd now offers counseling program to help people overcome grief

July 28, 2014 (Little Rock) - Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is now offering the proven Grief Recovery Method® through its Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center in Little Rock.

The Grief Recovery Institute designed the action-based program to help people move from grief to living life fully again. The program helps people who have experienced a death of a loved one, death of a pet, divorce, move, retirement, loss of trust, loss of faith, loss of fertility or other major life change.

The Schmidt Center, located at 1501 North University Avenue in the Prospect Building, offers either the 12-week group format or seven-week one-on-one format.

"The Grief Recovery Method gives you a series of actions to verbalize your feelings and complete the pain associated with those feelings," Jenny Caldwell, LCSW, Schmidt Center director, said.

For more information, call the Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center at 501-664-7777 or visit www.veralloyd.org.

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' corporate offices and counseling center are located in Little Rock and its children's home is located in Monticello. Vera Lloyd provides residential housing for up to 48 youth at any one time and close to 200 youth every year. Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services operates on an annual \$2.3 million budget and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

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Retired Ministers Conference October 14-17

The Association of Retired Ministers Conference will be held October 14-17 at Excelsior Springs, MO. (Kansas City)

If you would like to attend, you don't have to be a member. You can register with "The Elms Hotel and Spa". Their contact numbers are 800-843-3567 or 816-630-5500.

Please plan to attend if you are retired and contact Ike Brighton with any questions: 501-680-0086.

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Synod of the Sun Sponsors Mission Convocation

The Synod of the Sun is organizing a Mission Convocation.

The Convocation will be held Saturday, November 8th at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX. The theme of the event is "Mission Possible--There is No Box." Keynote speaker is Vera White, with Bill Lawser giving a presentation on "Asset Mapping."

The early registration fee is \$15. For more details, [click here for a flyer](#).

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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](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#) (Fill-in Youth Ministry Coordinator [MARY SHAW](#))
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)
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>