



**November 2014**

# **The Banner**

**Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

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## "View from the Pew"

Most Sundays, it is my privilege to worship with one of our congregations. Two weeks ago, it was with Spring River in Hardy. Yesterday's visit was with First Presbyterian, Conway and next week, Grace Presbyterian will be the folk with whom I will worship. Many times, I preach but there are occasions when my role is participating with the congregation as a worshiper.



Here are a few things I have noticed as a worshiper. At heart is the conviction that preparation makes a positive difference and that liturgical education is a vital component of that preparation. Neither interfere with the presence of Holy Spirit. Preparation does not impede but allows space for holy spontaneity. One of our pastors regularly prays, "Lord, may something happen that's not printed in the bulletin." Preparation is key to that having a better chance. More particularly, one notices specific things as a visiting worshiper. For instance, it makes a difference if directional signs are numerous and well placed even in small buildings that the familiar know well. Visit First Presbyterian in Mena to see excellent signage. It makes a difference if greeters are trained to greet everyone who comes into the building. It's a plus when someone is assigned to the parking lot or near the main door into the building to let people know where Sunday school is being offered, where one enters the sanctuary and the location of the nursery or bathrooms. It makes a difference when acolytes are trained to bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary and to carry it out again as the congregation is charged to bear the light of Christ's gospel in the world. It makes a difference when those who lead worship keep announcements regarding activities printed in the bulletin to a minimum. It makes a difference when silence is a respected, appreciated and practiced aspect of worship, when it is included in prayer and when prayers express awareness of the needs of the whole world. It makes a difference when those who read scripture have studied the texts and read them over out loud several times before reading in the context of worship. It makes a difference when receiving the offering is carefully planned and is interpreted as an act of worship in thanksgiving to God instead of a collection to keep the lights on. It makes a difference when congregations sing with vigor because they know the hymns and musicians see themselves as assistants in the worship of God.

Most Presbyterian preachers preach thoughtful sermons. They are better when offered with energy, good eye contact and personal engagement whether with or without a manuscript. It makes a difference when a congregation has been encouraged to continue greeting visitors following worship, when an invitation to lunch is regularly extended even if not always accepted.

While the Spirit is out of our control, it has been a promised presence in our gathering together in Jesus' name. Preparation is but a prelude for being attentive to God among us. So, then, let us continue to prepare to worship Almighty God.

Grace always,

*Bill*

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

**November**

- 10-11 COM Retreat, Ferncliff
- 15 General Committee, First Presbyterian, Conway
- 16 Preach, Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock
- 17 Solar Under the Sun, Development Committee, Irving
- 19-22 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees, Hunt, Texas
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

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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 [1stpresbytk@cableone.net](mailto:1stpresbytk@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 Youth Ministry** -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church, 3520 JFK Boulevard in North Little Rock, is seeking a creative, energetic person of faith to lead its youth ministry. The position is 10 hours per week, salary negotiable, with primary focus on the church's youth group which currently meets Sundays at 5:30 p.m. We are searching for someone with a heart for youth, who with our youth and their adult sponsors will build a program that nurtures Christian faith and fellowship and includes Bible study, recreation, and service. Mission trips and participation in Presbyterian youth events and conferences are also high on our agenda. Please send resumes to

the Search Committee via the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington, at [ggarlington3@hotmail.com](mailto:ggarlington3@hotmail.com). Questions or inquiries may be addressed to him at 501-940-8008.

**Director of Christian Education** -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church, 3520 JFK Boulevard in North Little Rock, is searching for a creative, energetic person of faith interested in leading its ministries of Christian education for children, youth, and adults. The position is 10 hours per week, with salary and schedule negotiable. With the right individual, this position might be combined with the church's current search for a Director of Youth Ministry. Please send resumes to the Search Committee via the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington, at [ggarlington3@hotmail.com](mailto:ggarlington3@hotmail.com). Questions or inquiries may be addressed to him at 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.

## Other Opportunities

**Always wanted to travel to Israel?** First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith is planning a trip February 24-March 12, 2015, hosted by Co-Pastors, Phil and Tasha Blackburn and offered by International Heritage Tours. Contact Phil or Tasha at (479) 783-8919 for additional information.

**The Bold Word Preaching Conference** for preachers and other worship leaders is scheduled for Mo-Ranch Camp and Conference Center, April 20-23, 2015. Outstanding preachers, young and old, are featured in this experience of enhancing facility as Servants of the Word. More information will soon be available on the Mo-Ranch website. How about a Presbytery of Arkansas delegation? Contact Bill Galbraith, (501) 663-2424x101, if you are interested in traveling together for this event.

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## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--**Lisa Hester** has resigned as choir director and organist at First, Benton. **Nikki Saltmarsh** began duties on Nov. 2, marking 25 years as a church musician. She has served Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations in Central AR and interior Alaska using her degrees in organ performance.

--**Tamara Ochoa** is the new Office Administrator at First, Fort Smith.

--**Kathy Tackett** is the new Administrative Assistant at First, Batesville.

--**Rev. Jimmie and Ailene Thames** have moved from Rogers to Fort Worth, TX. He is pastor emeritus of First, Jacksonville.

--Congratulations to **Sam and Beth Highsmith** of Little Rock on the birth of Samuel Thomas Lee, son of Kathleen and John Robert Lee of Benton. Sam is a former moderator of the presbytery.

--**Rev. Maetta Snyder** and her husband have moved to Monticello, which is part of the Presbytery of the Pines. She is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

--**Rev. David Gill** of Little Rock was recently selected by the PC(USA) Office of Camp and Conference Ministry as one of six PC(USA) Camp/Conference Center Directors to help launch a new Center of Excellence Program. This initial group was chosen for their creativity, innovation, and leadership. They recently gathered at Stony Point in NY to share best practices and hear from other leaders in the field. Brian Frick, Associate for the Office of Camp and Conference Ministries at the Presbyterian Mission Agency shares, "Innovators learn best from innovators. This first gathering sparked learnings that laid the groundwork for new programs and collaborations. Camps with leaders such as these will be the creative incubators for the future of our church."

--**Rev. Park and Betty Jean Moore** of Little Rock were featured in the recent issue of "Friends of Ferncliff" for their work in organizing the 77-year historical record of the camp. Park is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery, and Betty Jean is an active member of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Nancy Coleman** retired Nov. 2 as Administrative Associate at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock after over 15 years of service.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** hosted Presbyterian Heritage Sunday for **First and Faith, Pine Bluff** on Nov. 2.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** children's Sunday School class packed 40 kits of toys and books for the NWA Children's Shelters as an on-going mission project.

--**Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood** will host the annual Cluster 6 Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23.

--**First, Prairie Grove** had an adult Sunday School class in Oct. on "Presbyterians: Who are we? What do we believe?"

--**First, Newport** celebrated homecoming at Jacksonport State Park on Oct. 12 and their Session provides communion outside the building for those missing the sacrament due to their work schedules or illness.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** hosted flu shot clinic on Oct. 20 and Kirkin' of Tartans on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** hosted a free "self defense course for women" on Oct. 16 and 18.

--**First, Hot Springs** hosted an organ recital on Nov. 1 by Central AR Chapter of American Guild of Organists.

--**First, Van Buren** will hang the greens on Nov. 30, which begins their evening fellowship and reflection during Advent.

--**First, Jacksonville** sends a team of volunteers to work at the AR Rice Depot one Monday a month

and their youth worked one Saturday.

--Westminster, Little Rock partners with Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock by bringing canned goods once a month for the latter's food pantry

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## Vaughn Presbyterian Celebrates 125th Anniversary



Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville marked 125 years of worship and mission on September 28th.

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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 only have 1 copy left of the 2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$13.75. \*\*\*

### **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.

### **CHURCH EDUCATORS' SUGGESTIONS**

One of my favorite groups of people on the planet are Christian Educators, youth directors, children's ministry workers-those people who teach and educate in the church. On Oct. 30 eight of us were together at Central Presbyterian, Russellville to fellowship and exchange ideas. They graciously pointed out resources from YOUR Resource Center (and beyond) that had been successful in their congregations and encourage you to check them out too!

**"Praying in Color"** (Acc. #DVD/book/journal8920) for adults; **"Praying in Color: Kids' Edition"** (Acc. #DVD/BK9660), both by Sybil MacBeth

**"Praying with the Body: Bringing the Psalms to Life"** (Acc. #DVD9465) with Roy DeLeon guides you step-by-step to "use motion...with the words of the Psalms, to reinvigorate your daily prayer life."

**"A Children's Guide to Worship"** (Acc. #BK6549) by Ruth Boling and others is one of the "mouse family" books gently designed to guide children, families and friends through Reformed worship.

**"The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss"** by James W. Kemp finds "parallels between the actions of... (Seuss) 'creachas' and lessons found in Scripture" in 13 classes.

**"A Bird's Eye View of the Bible: From Genesis to Revelation"** (Acc. #BK6323) is a down-to-earth summary of the most exciting book in the world and has inspired some classes to spend years using it.

**"When Christians Get It Wrong"** by Adam Hamilton (Acc. #DVD9429 with book and leader's guide) responds in six lessons to criticism by young people of some "unchristian" actions by church-goers such as judging others, condemning other faiths, rejecting science, injecting politics and attacking homosexual persons.

**"Worldchanging 101: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness"** by David LaMotte (a gift from Rev. Liz Lindsey) "takes a conversational, story-based look at how change occurs and offers an encouraging, challenging, hopeful and practical perspective" on addressing community, national and global problems.

**RAVE REVIEW** from Christian Educator Julie Price, Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock:

Our weekly women's group (age range 50's and 60's) needed a short book to finish out our year. We discovered **Crazy Busy** by Kevin DeYoung and had some interesting and enlightening conversations over chapters that declared "you are trying to do what God does not expect you to do" and "you suffer more because you don't expect to suffer at all". We discovered that our expectations of ourselves and what we perceive to be the expectations of others much too often don't coincide with what God's desires for us. I also think this book would be very meaningful for a younger audience that is tied into the busyness of raising a family as it also deals with issues like the way we "freak out" over our kids and let "the screen strangle" our soul.

**RAVE REVIEW** from long-time teachers/leaders Shelby and Roger Bates, First, Yellville:

We recommend (the book) **Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt** (Acc. #BK7295) to any who have not done that (book)...this is our second or third time through it and those who have done it in the past say they get something different every time. Particularly good for churches likes ours who have many denominations represented.

#### **FOLLOWING ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVENT and CHRISTMAS**

**"The Women of Christmas: Experience the Season Afresh with Elizabeth, Mary and Anna"** by Liz Curtis Higgs in eight sessions with study guide.

**"Presbyterians Today 2014 Advent Calendar: Decluttering for Christmas"** by Kathleen Long Bostrom

**"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus"**

**"A Stubborn Sweetness and other stories for the Christmas Season"** by Katherine Paterson

Many more are available for children, families, youth and adult groups. Just phone or email your request.

### **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](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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### **Rev. Georgia Senor Installed at First, Bentonville**



Rev. Georgia Senor was installed as Designated Associate Pastor of First, Bentonville on October 26th. Members of the installation commission pictured above are (left to right): TE Barry Williams; RE Susan Anderson; TE Liz Wagner; RE Al Hanna; TE Georgia Senor; TE Clare Kelley; TE Laura Fleetwood; TE Joe Tropansky; RE Susan Wilder; RE Lynn Monroe

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### **Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News Important Youth Ministry Dates**

Please mark your calendar with these important dates for next year!



**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**

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

Search

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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.

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

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**Faith and Grief Luncheons Begin Next Week in Little Rock**



Faith and Grief Luncheons begin next week at Second Presbyterian Church

When a loved one dies, one of the most common early reactions is an intense yearning, a sense that part of you is missing, and a hunger to have the person back. Sharing stories often provides solace and helps ease the heartbreak. Second church is providing a place to share those stories.

On the third Tuesday of every month, a Faith and Grief Luncheon will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Second Hall. People of all faiths are welcome to come.

Participants will experience:

- ❖ a supportive community of persons who have experienced the death of a loved one
- ❖ comfort through scripture and prayers
- ❖ encouragement through personal stories
- ❖ hope in sharing your feelings and experiences.

Registration for the November 18 luncheon has begun. If you are interested in receiving more information about Faith and Grief Ministry, contact Karen Akin at 501-227-0000 or [karenakin@secondpreslr.org](mailto:karenakin@secondpreslr.org), or go on line to [www.faithandgrief.org](http://www.faithandgrief.org).

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## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**Q: I remember that Pulaski, Faulkner, White and Randolph Counties had a destructive tornado on April 27 this year. I assume that by now, everyone has their house fixed and is doing well. Am I right?**

**A:** Thanks be to God, things are going much better for the folks in Paron, Vilonia, Mayflower, El Paso, and Saltillo. We are now in the long-term recovery phase of the storm. Long-term recovery organizations (LTROs) in Vilonia (73 cases) and Mayflower (90 cases) are working to help with damage from minor repairs to total rebuilds. It will take another couple of years to work through all of them.

Thanks to you, generous Arkansas Presbyterians, your presbytery committee was able to contribute \$10,000 each to the two LTROs to help with those cases. Presbyterians are active in both the LTROs and will continue as long as there are

people to be helped. It's a process; and you are part of it. Thank you. For information on how you can offer further help, you can ask presbytery committee chair James Anderson at [jandersonret@gmail.com](mailto:jandersonret@gmail.com) or Liz Branch at [erbranch@comcast.net](mailto:erbranch@comcast.net)

As for "normal", we expect people to reach a "new normal" after awhile. Life won't be the same; it could be even better than it was before the storm.

--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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## News from the Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Arkansas

For further information, contact Gordon Garlington (501-940-8008)

### "I Was Hungry, and You Gave Me Food" Inviting Your Church to Receive the 2014 Cents-Ability Offering!

"Cents-Ability" is the newer name for what was formerly "2 Cents-A-Meal," an annual offering for hunger received in many of our congregations.

Each year our Presbytery of Arkansas' Mission Committee designates three hunger-related causes to receive, in equal shares, these offerings: one ministry in Arkansas, one a national, U.S.-based project, and one an international hunger relief effort.

Your Mission Committee has designated 2014 Cents-Ability offerings to be distributed to the following ministries:

1) *Arkansas -- The **Arkansas Rice Depot**, with headquarters and warehouse in Little Rock but serving the whole state, the Rice Depot was founded largely by Presbyterians and supported by our congregations through the three decades of its existence. At the suggestion of an Arkansas' elementary school counselor, the Rice Depot originated the idea of "Food for Kids" backpacks, replicated across our state and nation and currently serving 600 Arkansas schools. The Depot also helps provide food to 300 food pantries around the state as well as a "Food for Seniors" project delivering an end-of-the-month box of food to low-income senior adults in central Arkansas.*

2) *National (United States) -- **Community of the Beloved, Asheville, N.C.**, a ministry recommended by the Presbyterian Hunger Program of our denomination, which hopes to begin a new ministry, "The Lunchbox" Mobile Kids' Kitchen, a food truck and mobile kitchen*

taking healthy food to where underprivileged children live and play. Among past accomplishments of the Community of the Beloved is a community garden located in a public housing project around which residents gathered for cooking demonstrations and nutritional information, aimed at children receiving healthy food to stem both hunger and obesity.

3) *International -- The work of the "**Stop Hunger Now**" program, administered through our Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.*

*Stop Hunger Now's mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. An international hunger relief agency begun in 1998, Stop Hunger Now coordinates the distribution of food and other lifesaving aid to children and families in countries all over the world. Its meal packaging program perfected an assembly process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets, each meal costing only 29 cents. Stored easily and with a shelf-life of two years, the meals are distributed through international partners.*

*As we have seen at our Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, a single Stop Hunger Now event, using volunteers for product packaging, can produce thousands of meals while at the same time increasing awareness of global hunger issues.*

Presbytery of Arkansas' congregations receive Cents-Ability offerings in many ways. Some distribute "mite boxes" into which coins are placed through the year at church and/or family meals. In other churches, members are encouraged to write a check for the equivalent of 2 cents per meal for the year, or \$21.90.

Simply receive the offering, then send it along to Kenneth Rich at the presbytery office, designated "Cents-Ability."

However your church does it, your Presbytery of Arkansas' Mission Committee urges you to receive the 2014 Cents-Ability offering. Together, we can make a big difference in the lives of hungry children and families!

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### **Church members make Christmas happen for children**

Vera Lloyd needs help from people like you to make Christmas happen for children and youth on our campus who won't experience Christmas without you.

Vera Lloyd staff gathers wish lists from youth and provides lists to churches and volunteers who purchase gifts and bring them to the Monticello children's home campus or our Little Rock corporate office. If you are interested in bringing Christmas to children at Vera Lloyd, please contact Melissa Hendricks, Director of Development, at 501-666-8195.

## **Schmidt Center now offers help overcoming grief**

Jenny Caldwell, LCSW and Director of Vera Lloyd's Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center, is now certified in the Grief Recovery Method through a week-long training offered by the Grief Recovery Institute.

The Grief Recovery Method is an action-step, proven program that helps people overcome grief. With help through the Schmidt Center, you or someone you love can move past a loss and embrace life again.

Call the Schmidt Center at 501-664-7777 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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## **90 Day Companions to Begin in 2015**

In 2015, the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals will initiate a 90 Day Companion program to help welcome newcomers to the Presbytery of Arkansas. New members to the Presbytery will be matched with a companion who will make contact with the newcomer at least three times during the first 90 days of membership in the Presbytery. These contacts may be phone calls or face-to face visits and may be more frequent than once a month. The frequency and nature of the contacts will be determined by the person coming into our presbytery and the person who has agreed to serve as the 90 Day Companion. Typically, the conversation will include the following:

- Celebrations and Accomplishments
- Current Challenges
- Plans for Addressing the Challenges
- Whatever else the new person would like to discuss

Current members of the Presbytery of Arkansas may be asked to serve as 90 Day Companions. If you would like to be considered please let Dan Wooley, incoming moderator of the Care and Nurture of Church Professionals know. He may be contacted at: [DANSW7156@aol.com](mailto:DANSW7156@aol.com)

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## **Board of Pensions Needs to Know Plans by Nov 14, 2014**

During annual enrollment, October 1 to November 14, 2014, churches and employing organizations

must make any medical coverage-level changes elected by their employees for 2015. Eligible family members can be added to or waived from the plan only during the annual enrollment period, except for qualifying life events, such as the birth of a child.

If employers do not notify the Board of Pensions of a change to medical coverage level during annual enrollment, the member and eligible family members will continue to be covered in 2015 as they are in 2014, and the employing organization will be billed accordingly.

Please consult "Your Guide to Making Medical Coverage-Level Changes" mailed from the Board of Pensions or go to Benefits Connect at the Board of Pensions website to register your church or organization and complete the information requested. You will need your church's PIN number as well as the Board of Pensions current invoice amount.

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### **PC(USA) Needs Your Help With "*The Confirmation Project*"**

***The Confirmation Project*** seeks to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices (CEP) in five Protestant denominations in the United States are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth. Strengthening discipleship includes nurturing faith in Jesus Christ and facilitating youth encounters with Christian traditions (Scripture, creeds, confessions, and practices) to support lifelong Christian vocation.

The five denominations in this project include: the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church. This project is funded by the Lilly Foundation, Inc. and seeks to provide ministry leaders within the Christian church examples of strategies and practices that are effective in helping young Christians grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

By taking the time to fill out the survey, you can help us better understand the depth, breadth, and effectiveness of confirmation and equivalent practices in the PC(USA). We look forward to learning from you and your ministry!

To learn more, visit their website at [www.theconfirmationproject.com](http://www.theconfirmationproject.com).

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## Presbytery Welcomes Nomination 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: [2015 Nominations Form](#).

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## Winter Weather and Year-End Reminders

When Little Rock schools close for winter weather, the presbytery office closes also. The office will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. Our fiscal year ends on Dec. 31, 2014. If you need reimbursements from or donations to the presbytery to be included in 2014's business, please make sure they arrive in the office by Dec. 23rd (our last working day of 2014).

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**Prayer List for Congregations -- 2014** can be found [here](#).

**Prayer List for Congregations -- 2015** 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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Share:  

Connect:



Roger Dermody  
Deputy Executive Director for Mission  
Blessings, Roger

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our past, acknowledge our present, and anticipate our future with hope. There are many reasons to be thankful, but one thing I am especially thankful for is the commitment of the many Presbyterians serving Christ in the world. I hope the stories in this edition of Changing Lives encourage you to continue your efforts to serve Christ with thanksgiving. [Read more.](#)

## LIVING MISSIONALLY

How is your church-or the churches  
in your area-living missionally?

Submit your stories to

[changinglives@pcusa.org](mailto:changinglives@pcusa.org)

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[Download the bulletin insert](#)

Presbyterian Mission Agency, an agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202

800-728-7228 | 502-569-5000

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PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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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>