



June 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Blessing and Keeping . . . "

Last Saturday, we stood to receive the Benediction, God's good word for our departing from the service of worship to attending the day's other Presbytery business. Becky Purcell invited us to receive the ancient words which, according to Numbers 22:24-26, Moses is told to tell his brother Aaron, "Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the People of Israel. Say to them,



GOD bless you and keep you,
GOD smile on you and gift you,
GOD look you full in the face
and make you prosper..." (the Message)

Later, that day, we approved Becky's examination for ordination and look forward to her ordination and installation as co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove. We also welcomed into Presbytery membership Ike Brighton, recently retired teaching elder from Holston Presbytery and D.C. Adams who has been called as the pastor of First Presbyterian of Harrison. Additionally, we expressed gratitude for the thirty-seven years John King has served as pastor with the Prairie Grove congregation and his recognition as pastor emeritus.

We said, "Hello, Welcome and Thanks." We also prepared to say good-bye, recognizing the good and faithful leadership offered by Jesse Gonzalez as Presbytery evangelist and Kendal Land, pastor of First Presbyterian of Arkadelphia. In July, Jesse will become pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala, Texas and Kendal will become the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Texas.

In our coming to new ministries and in our going from those in which we have been engaged, we gift each other in praying for God's continuing blessing, God's safe-keeping of one another, God's delight and abundant provision and God's grace-filled acceptance of not just what we do but of all God has made us to be.

It is God's work in which we are privileged to share and by God's generosity we discover its abundant delight.

Gratefully yours,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

June

11 Jackson Cook Memorial Lecture, Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

13-20 General Assembly, Detroit, Michigan

22 Worship Service, FPC, Arkadelphia, Dissolution of Call to Kendal Land

22 Installation Service of D.C. Adams, FPC, Harrison

27-01 Vacation

29 FPC, Prairie Grove, retirement of John King

29 Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana, recognition of Jesse Gonzalez

July
08 Committee on Ministry, FPC, Conway
10-11 Executive Presbyter Forum, Irving, Texas
20 Preach, FPC, Yellville

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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.

Full-time Office Manager -- Welcoming, caring, congenial, and helpful; proficient with computers, web, publishing, editing, office machines; able to graciously support and care for people while accomplishing priority tasks. Send resume and three references to First United Presbyterian Church, 695 Calvin St., Fayetteville, AR, 72703, or email to info@fupcfay.org. Phone: 479-442-4411. Position begins June 17. Full position announcement at <http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx>.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Congratulations to **Caroline Sellars** who married Bryan Lieber on May 31 in Austin, TX. Caroline is the daughter of **Rev. Lacy and Darlene Sellars**; Lacy is pastor of First, Hot Springs.

--Congratulations to **Daniel Ford** and **Thomas Vinson** who graduated with honors from the Bowen School of Law in Little Rock on May 17. Daniel is the son of **Jeannie Ford and husband Collins Andrews** of Little Rock and **Rev. Clif and Martha Ford** of Conway. Jeannie is Director of Christian Education at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and Clif is temporary supply at First, Alma. Thomas is the son of **Rev. Michael and Karen Young-Vinson** of Conway. Michael is presbytery staff for congregational vitality, and Karen is a reader of theological exams this year for the presbytery.

--**Donna Poteet** is the new administrative assistant at Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy.

--**Rev. Dari Rowen** is recuperating from shoulder surgery and welcomes prayers. Dari is pastor of First, Benton.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Huntsville** celebrated Pentecost on June 8 with their annual riverside worship service followed by potluck picnic.

--**First, Pine Bluff** held a neighborhood block party on May 31 complete with refreshments, bouncy house and the Cummins Prison Band, co-sponsored by Pine Bluff Fire Dept. Station #3.

--**First, Newport** joined seven other churches (from six denominations) for a progressive dinner on the evening of June 1.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** organized a trip to Murry's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock on June 7 to see "Church Basement Ladies 2."

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** enjoyed the annual all-church picnic on May 29 at Blowing Springs Park.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** honored graduating seniors with a scholarship and a senior dinner.

--**First, Hot Springs** is planning monthly trips to **Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman** to help with their food pantry and hot meals served on Saturdays.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** sends out the "Weekly Word" by email on Friday giving the sermon focus and special events for the following Sunday as well as a household prayer for morning and evening.

--**Mountainburg Presbyterian** recently fed 70 families at their monthly Saturday food pantry.

--**First, Prairie Grove** celebrated in May the graduation of the fourth seminarian to serve as an intern with them in the last 15 years.

--Evangelism Committee of **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** hosted a city-wide Christian musical gathering on May 31 at the Depot Park in Russellville and invited rock and bluegrass groups to perform.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** will host a 5th Sunday hymn sing on June 29 at 10 a.m. with brunch to follow.

--**First, Yellville** held their third annual Spring Sing on the evening of June 8, followed by a cookout at their pavilion.

--**First, Eureka Springs** and **Holiday Island Presbyterian** enjoyed the Presbyterian 101 class on May 14 and four teenagers are in confirmation training to join church on June 15.

--**Mount Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville** hosted a spaghetti supper and pie auction fundraiser on June 6.

--**First United, Fayetteville** was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the PC(USA) Environmental Ministries as they "completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach."

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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.

Contact me for copies of the **Presbyterian Outlook's** post-General Assembly summary on bulletin inserts after June 23.

In the in-between time of the church calendar, past Easter and Pentecost, let's look at summer options and think/plan ahead to fall.

RAVE REVIEWS

--Rev. Don Campbell, honorably retired, reports that the Sunday School class he resources at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock praised two recently used resources from YOUR Resource Center. They used the Great Courses "**Great Figures of the New Testament**" (Acc. #DVD9042) in 24 lectures of 30 minutes each by Amy-Jill Levine, New Testament professor from Vanderbilt Divinity School. Don reports the delightful comment that "we learned things we didn't know before" about such characters as John the Baptist, the Herodians and Paul the evangelist. The class also appreciated Walter Wangerin, Jr.'s DVD "**The Four Acts of Prayer**" (DVD9404) which explores the complete circle of praying (we speak, God listens, God speaks, we listen).

--Rev. Susie Wiggins, transitional pastor at First, Pine Bluff, comments that their adult class loved "**The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**" (Acc. #DVD/BK9804), the Lenten study by Adam Hamilton. "It was so well received that many want to make a trip to the Holy Land. The DVD was very moving and made you feel you were present." This is an all-church study with books for children, youth and adults.

--A colleague in another resource center recommends the new, free video series, streaming on the internet, entitled "**Being Presbyterian.**" The Synod of Mid America produced these, the first one for new members, and has made them available at <http://www.theoacademy.com/>

NEW RESOURCES TO PREVIEW

--Adam Hamilton is back with his first "real" Bible study, "**Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today**" (Acc. #DVD/BK9806). This six-session study acknowledges the

confusion created by the world's most beloved book through DVD segments of 10 to 15 minutes, a downloadable leader guide, and the book of the same name. Would this suit your group this fall?

--Interest continues in the World War II theologian/author/martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and this new study speaks to today's Christians about what is the church, living in community, religionless Christianity, and come and die. Kit includes the four session DVD and study guide, "**Bonhoeffer: The life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.**"

--For children the DVD "**Sunday Morning**" and "**In God's Name**" (Acc. #DVD9814) for children 4 to 10 grew out of the two children's books by the same name (Acc. BK8082). The first 18-minute video "Sunday Morning" centers the children's attention on the basic themes, questions, words and characters of worship. The second 16-minute video "In God's Name" traces the quest of children from around the globe in search for the 'only' name of God.

--Also for children the DVD/book "**Praying in Color, Kids' Edition**" (Acc. #BK/DVD9660) seeks to change the way kids pray, using one minute a day, anytime of the day, with their markers or crayons creating the first half of the prayer and carrying the visual memories through the day as the second half.

--Parents, educators and family members will learn from the new DVD "**Holy Baptism: A Guide to this Celebration of New Life**" (Acc. #DVD9801) which presents a Lutheran and Catholic priest answering common questions about why baptize, why was Jesus baptized, when were infants first baptized, and why is ritual important.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE P.L.A.C.E. educational event on Saturday, August 9, at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. See links to workshop, flyers, brochures, and registration material elsewhere in this edition of The BANNER and on the presbytery's website.

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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Presbytery Gathers On The Eve Of Pentecost
by David Harrison Dyer, Assistant Stated Clerk

The 126th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was called to order in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs by the Moderator **Clare Kelley** at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 7, 2014. The sanctuary was festooned with red and flame inspired decorations as we came together to do the work of the Church.

Dr. **Lacy Sellars**, pastor of First Presbyterian, Hot Springs, welcomed the presbytery to the congregation. Assistant Stated Clerk, **David Dyer** welcomed first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners. The presbytery staff was introduced by the Moderator and the other necessary business was quickly dispatched.



Lacy Sellars (right) welcomes the presbytery as Moderator Clare Kelley observes

At 9:45 a.m. The Morning Worship began with majestic organ music provided by **Victoria Harden** of Camden, Arkansas that helped move the presbytery into a spirit of Pentecost. The leadership of the service was provided by an active group of Commissioned Ruling Elders, including **Hartley Jones** and **Carolyn Beane** of Barr Memorial, Norman; **Claire** and **Kenneth Rhodes** of West End, Arkadelphia; and **Harris R. Wright** of Faith, Pine Bluff. The Chancel Choir of First, Hot Springs, under the direction of **Deleen Davidson** gave us wonderful music throughout the service. Candidate for Ordination **Becky Purcell** preached the Word from Psalm 133, calling the presbytery to rejoice in and live up to our various ordinations. Teaching Elder **Leslie Bethell Roper** introduced and led the commissioning service for youth and their leaders going to Mo-Ranch and Montreat this summer. The offering was equally divided between the Arkansas Rice Depot and the Stop Hunger Now project at Ferncliff. Ruling Elder **Kim Danehower**, Moderator of the Mission Committee introduced the offering which totaled \$1,400.



Chancel Choir of First, Hot Springs (conducted by Deleen Davidson)



Becky Purcell preaches during worship



Youth and adults who will participate in summer trips are commissioned during worship

Refreshed by worship, the presbytery returned to the labors of the day. Presbytery Vice-Moderator **Ed Wilkinson** gave the report of the General Committee.

Teaching Elder **Frank LeBlanc**, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry gave their report. Ruling Elder **Sally King** spoke at the occasion of the retirement of her husband **John King** from the pastorate at First, Prairie Grove and he was voted the status of Honorably Retired. The presbytery voted to receive Teaching Elder **Ira E. (Ike) Brighton**, Honorably Retired, from Holston Presbytery, and he greeted the council. The presbytery voted to approve Teaching Elder **D. C. Adams** as the pastor of First, Harrison; approved the Administrative Commission to install and the terms of call, and heard him as he introduced himself. The presbytery then examined Candidate **Becky Purcell** who spoke of her sense of call and answered questions posed by members of the COM: Phil Butin, Ed Wilkinson, Bill Welder, and Georgia Senor. Her examination was sustained in its parts and as a whole, and following the presbytery's vote to ordain her, Teaching Elder Jeff Cranton offered prayer.

Teaching Elder **Phil Butin**, First United, Fayetteville spoke of the ministry of Teaching Elder and Presbytery Evangelist **Jesse Gonzalez** as he was dismissed to Mission Presbytery. General Presbyter **Bill Galbraith** also spoke of the excellent work Jesse has done among us and Jesse offered the presbytery his sincere "mucho gracias."

Ruling Elder **Julie Agee Gillaspay** presented the report of the Committee on Nominations. The presbytery also received the report of the Committee on Representation.

Teaching Elder **Kevin Keaton**, New Covenant Presbytery, reported on changes in the Pension and Health Insurance Plan of the Board of Pensions.

The council then recessed to enjoy a delicious lunch of catfish, chicken fingers, cole slaw, rolls, biscuits, hush puppies, salad and dessert; all served in the new Parish Hall of St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church next door.

Returning, the presbytery heard a Theological Discussion introduced by Teaching Elder **Ruskin Falls**, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock and presented by Teaching Elder **Robert Lowry**, First and Harmony, Clarksville. The discussion included a Power Point presentation on the Social Witness Overtures before the General Assembly. It can be found here: [\[Click here for presentation\]](#). Lowry then continued with a brief report from the Listening/Redesign Task Force, also introducing Task Force members **Mike Szabo**, First, Searcy and **Julie**

Adkisson, First, Conway.

Certified Christian Educator **Linda LeBron** reported for the Committee on Christian Education, urging support of The P.L.A.C.E. event in August.

Teaching Elder **Catherine Allsbury**, Moderator of the Committee on Administration, reported for them, noting the likely need to borrow funds in support of Ferncliff's Capital Campaign, if property on Chenal in Little Rock does not sell by the fall. The loan will be "income neutral" for the presbytery.

Minute Announcements were made: **Dari Rowen** on the Theological Education Fund; **David Gill** noting that attendance is up 31% at Ferncliff summer camps; **Ike Brighton** supporting the Retired Ministers Assoc.; **David Reed** supporting the Presbytery Resource Center; **Viki David** reminding of the Presbyterian Pilgrimage #21 set for Oct. 2-5; **James Anderson** reported on Disaster Preparedness; **Rebecca Spooner** spoke for Wellspring Renewal Center; **Britton Varn** reminded us about the Youth Advisory Team needing volunteers and about summer trips; **Bill Galbraith** informed us that **Mary Shaw** will be covering the youth duties of presbytery during Britton's maternity leave; it was reported that two PDA grants of \$5,000 for tornado recovery have been given to us; **Bill James** reported on the U of A Campus Ministries receiving a grant from the 1001 Worshipping Communities effort of the General Assembly and that Barr Memorial, Norman has also received a \$7,500 grant. Both will be matched by Congregational Care and Development Committee; finally, **Phil Butin** reported on the Honduras project of the NW area Presbyterian Churches.

The Leaves of Absence Committee reported forty-four Teaching Elders, one Corresponding Member, forty-four Ruling Elder Commissioners, 18 other voting members, ten Ruling Elder Church Professionals, and 40 visitors in attendance.

Under New Business, Teaching Elder **Steve Hancock**, Second, Little Rock, spoke about helping to publicize the availability of Medicaid support for those in poverty.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Vice-Moderator **Ed Wilkinson**.

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The 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The General Assembly convenes at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan on June 14 and concludes on June 21, 2014. Commissioners from the Presbytery of Arkansas are: The **Rev. Anne Russ**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock; The **Rev. Camille LeBron Powell**, associate pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; Ruling Elder, **Mary Beth Lysobey**, Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman and Ruling Elder, **Ed Wilkinson**, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Greenwood. Serving as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate is **Judy Hernandez**, Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman. Also assisting in other leadership roles are: The **Rev. Susie Carter Wiggins**, transitional pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff; **Britton Varn**, Associate for Youth Ministry, Presbytery of Arkansas, Little Rock and **Chris McRae**, Director of Solar Under the Sun, Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas. General Presbyter **Bill Galbraith** will also participate.

Please remember leaders from this presbytery as well as other commissioners and leaders from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in your daily prayers.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Youth Summer Trips!

Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch (current grades 6-8)--July 5-10

Montreat Youth Conference (current grades 8-12) -- July 12-19

We have fabulous groups attending each of these trips! If you have youth who would still like to join one of these groups, please contact Britton Varn at the Presbytery office. She will be happy to call the conference centers and see if it's possible to add to our numbers. Check out the link below for more information, or email britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org!

Here is the link for more information on these trips:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%202014%20-%20Info%20and%20Registration%20form.pdf>

Please pray for these youth and their Adult Advisors as they travel, worship, play, and learn!

Youth Advisory Team (YAT) to meet Aug. 9 & 10

The Youth Advisory Team will have its annual Fall Retreat/Meeting Aug. 9 and 10 in Little Rock. To find out more about YAT (or to inquire about joining!), please see the link below or contact Bud McConkie, 2014-2015 Adult Co-Moderator at SBMcconkie@gmail.com. We are looking for Youth (10th-12th grades), College-Age Students, and Adults

who care about ministry with young people!

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Youth%20Advisory%20Team%20Application%20&%20letter%202014-2015.pdf>

**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

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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Register 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.

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! Registration began June 1.

For a registration packet, [click here](#).

For a schedule of the event, [click here](#).

For descriptions of the workshops, [click here](#).

You can also find copies of these documents on the presbytery's webpage (www.presbyteryofarkansas.org) under "Resources | Presbytery Documents".

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Q: Since the tornado that blasted Paron, Vilonia and Mayflower, I have heard people talk about "long-term recovery". What in the world does that mean?

A: "Long-term recovery" describes the lo-o-o-o-ng process of restoring a community to health after a disaster. A rough estimate of the time it takes goes like this: the # of days for disaster relief X 10 = the short-term recovery period (time to get basic services up and running) for a community, and the # of days for short-term recovery X 10 = the long-term recovery period (time to rebuild houses and businesses, and to bring the community to a new normal) .

So if Paron, Vilonia and Mayflower received relief for 14 days after the April 27 tornado, their short-term recovery would take 140 days and their long-term recovery 1400 days, or 3 to 4 years. It takes a long time to restore even the property of communities; restoring people's emotional and spiritual health may require even longer. The Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee is prepared to support that recovery from start to finish. We are grateful for the grace of gifts from individuals and congregations to help that recovery come to pass.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee

Urgent Need for School Kits

With the latest shipment of Church World Service (CWS) Gift of the Heart School Kits to our partner IOCC in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, the number of School Kits is down to about 60 cartons at the New Windsor Warehouse and 120 cartons at the warehouse at Ferncliff.

We need to replenish these supplies immediately.

Gift of the Heart School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning, so it is vitally important that we replenish our supplies as quickly as possible.

- In the case of Syria, IOCC supports one of the largest established networks to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid inside Syria, where more than 9.3 million people are currently in need of assistance.
- In November 2013, approximately 3,000 School Kits were shipped for distribution in Syria.
- Gift of the Heart School Kits include some of the basic necessities for learning, including notebooks, pencils and crayons.
- These kits help children return to normalcy faster, helping them avoid the long-term effects of trauma.

Learn how to assemble [Gift of the Heart School Kits](#).

--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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Spring Break in Honduras

by Rev. Leslie Belden

Do you ever hope that the place where you're going will be wonderful, but you don't really know what to expect - and then when you actually get there it's even better than you could have ever imagined? That's what it was like for 15 of us from NWA to go to La Cumbre, Honduras, during Spring Break. We had intended to research future Solar Under the Sun installations of solar panels, to go along with water purification plants by Living Waters for the World. And we did that - we talked with PCUSA missionary Mark Wright and a delegation from the Presbytery of Honduras, which consists of 20 congregations outside of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. They have been working on a grant application for a Living Waters for the World installation, and we can very easily add the solar component.

But that was only a small part of what we saw, learned, and experienced. We saw water purification sites already established by Living Waters for the World in the region of Trinidad, where we stayed

and worked. In fact, we depended on their water for safe drinking water as we worked alongside our new friends in La Cumbre! We learned about the community development efforts of PCUSA missionaries Tim and Gloria Wheeler, who have been working with small communities in Trinidad transforming ways of thinking and working together. Now these communities are working together to build homes for the poorest in their midst, particularly for single mothers and their children who currently live in mud and stick shacks. Brothers, friends, and the women themselves work together to build all of the homes out of the hard ground - digging out rocks with pick-axes, and shoveling trenches for foundations made of rocks and cement.

We had the privilege of building our own foundation for this ministry by serving side-by-side laying the foundation for 4-5 out of the twenty homes in La Cumbre. We dug, we carried stones, we separated sand from gravel, we mixed concrete on the ground, and "poured" the foundation with buckets and shovels, laying hand-made concrete brick upon brick. We ate the good local produce with corn tortillas, and enjoyed the abundance with which the community fed us - having chicken at almost every meal.

But it was not all work! The Major of Trinidad and his wife hosted us one afternoon at his family's "swimming hole" where the local news filmed us for that evening's broadcast. We heard of how the Major's wife and others are working to scholarship students so that they will continue their education past the 6th grade, when most children stop attending school. And our last full day in Honduras was spent at Copan, climbing the Mayan ruins, and learning about the people who inhabited Honduras 1500 years ago.

We came home excited about the multitude of opportunities for serving God with our brothers and sisters in Honduras! From continuing building homes, to installing solar and water applications, to assisting with scholarships for students, to having youth and/or women attend conferences - and so much more! We will be in prayer, and ask that you pray with us as we discern God's plan for this foundation.

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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](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

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>