



February 2015

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"What Is It You Do?"

With the conclusion of the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, I am grateful for the contributions offered by so many. There was the warm hospitality of the staff and students of the University of the Ozarks and that of First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, the steady moderating and encouraging preaching of outgoing moderator, Clare Kelley, and the positive energy of new moderator, Ed Wilkinson. David Dyer, acting stated clerk, kept us on track polity-wise with decisive



gentleness. It was also good to have the large contingent of youth and their leaders joining us for the gathering and to welcome new pastoral leaders: Steve Frazier of First Presbyterian, Morrilton, Rachel Shepherd of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, Katie Cummings of First Presbyterian, Bentonville, Ward Rudolph of All Souls Church of Scott and also commission Chuck Olson, a member of Central Presbyterian, Russellville, as Commissioned Ruling Elder of Atkins Memorial Presbyterian.

As a presbytery, we will continue to wrestle with recommendations offered by the Listening/Restructure Task Force, continue to talk with each other and refine a plan which will escort us into a new era as a presbytery. I hope we will also live with mutual forbearance regarding decisions made by the entire council which may be at odds with personal convictions. We can be beneficially reminded in our decision making that our unity is not in uniformity of belief and not our creation but the gift given us in being people transformed and welcomed into the marvelously diverse Body of Christ.

I am also grateful for being elected to serve as your General Presbyter these past five years and four months and to continue that service until the end of June 2015, and, perhaps, thereafter on a month-to-month basis. Since the question arose during the meeting, it may be helpful to know the job description of the General Presbyter as detailed in the Presbytery's Manual of Operations, Appendix C. It is as follows:

Principal Function

The General Presbyter is called to be the head of the Presbytery staff and to fulfill the administrative functions of the office of the Presbytery Executive. He/She will work in a collegial way to ensure that the functions of the Presbytery are carried out in an effective and efficient manner, paying particular attention to building and sustaining trust within the staff and throughout the Presbytery. The General Presbyter will also

serve as a liaison between the Presbytery, local congregations, the Synod and General Assembly.

Job Expectations

Growing spiritually, professionally and personally

1. Serve as a Spiritual Leader for the Presbytery
 - * Have a personal spiritual life through, daily prayer, Bible study and meditation with special emphasis on prayer for the churches and church professionals of the Presbytery.
 - * Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.
 - * Serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.
 - * Present a message that is biblically based and encourages people to grow in their spiritual life.
 - * Present a model of servant leadership that demonstrates pastoral sensitivity and prophetic imagination.
2. Continue to grow in personal spiritual life and in ministry skills
 - * Participate in continuing education events as selected in consultation with the Personnel subcommittee.
 - * Participate in a three-month sabbatical for continuing education after six years of the call.

Resourcing

1. Serve as Staff Resource to the following Committees:
 - * Care and Nurture of Church Professionals
 - * Ministry
 - * Mission
 - * Nominations
 - * General Committee
 - * Administration
2. In consultation with the General Committee, appoint members of Presbytery to serve on all other boards, agencies, and councils on behalf of the Presbytery, except in such cases where it is deemed important not to delegate such responsibility.
3. Be available to congregations for interpretation of Presbytery's mission, offering guidance and presence in times of need and filling the pulpit and moderating sessions or meetings of congregation as time permits.

Ministering

1. In cooperation with the Committee on ministry, assist pastors and churches in crisis and serve as a mediator as needed by churches and ministers.
2. Maintain good working relationships with staff persons to ensure high productivity and a pleasant professional working environment.

3. Plan the annual gathering of pastors and educators new to the Presbytery.

Advocating

1. Support the work of the Presbytery, the Synod of the Sun and the General Assembly with the constituent churches.
2. Understand and articulate the Presbyterian system of polity and Reformed theology.
3. Support the work of ecumenical organizations and relate to the heads of other judicatories in the State of Arkansas, through appointed representatives of the Presbytery where possible.
4. Represent the Presbytery on ceremonial occasions as schedule allows.

Administering

1. Make reference checks on pastors coming into the Presbytery and give references for those leaving.
2. Conduct annual evaluations of all administrative staff and assist in annual evaluations of the Stated Clerk.
3. Provide leadership and supervision of Presbytery staff and office.
4. Hire administrative staff and advise search committees for Associate General Presbyter(s) and Stated Clerk.
5. Operate Presbytery functions within budgetary guidelines.

Participating

1. Assist in establishing a vision for the Presbytery.
2. Participate in Presbytery meetings.
3. Participate in the Executive Forum of the Synod of the Sun and the Synod-wide Staff Convocation.
4. Attend the General Assembly meetings and resource the Commissioners from our Presbytery.
5. Assist with the clergy recruiting effort of the Presbytery.
6. Advise Presbytery on the development of policies and procedures.
7. Recommend the Presbytery office budget and assist the Personnel sub-committee in preparing salaries and terms of call for the Presbytery staff.

Communicating

1. Communicate clearly the Presbytery's mission and the theology of the Reformed tradition.
2. Give a "State of the Presbytery" address at each February meeting of the Presbytery.

Coordinating

1. Oversee the coordination of the activities of the Presbytery.

The General Presbyter Nominating Committee will review this Job Description alongside the proposed plan for restructuring the Presbytery.

Thank you for your support in this shared ministry and for the opportunity to continue to seek to make visible the Body of Christ.

Gratefully,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

March

01 Preach, Allison Memorial Presbyterian
03 Committee on Ministry, FPC, Conway
03 Honduras Mission Trip Orientation, FUPC, Fayetteville
04-05 Solar Under the Sun Board, Ferncliff
08 Installation Service for Steve Frazier, FPC, Morrilton
09-10 Synod of the Sun, Irving, Texas
10-11 Executive Presbyter Forum, Irving, Texas
21-28 Honduras Mission Trip

April

13 Mission Group Welcome, FPC, Conway
15-18 Mo-Ranch Board
20-23 Bold Word Preaching Conference, Mo-Ranch
26 Installation Service, Katie Cummings, FPC, Bentonville
28 Presbyterian Village, Gala

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Presbytery Meets February in Arkansas

David H. Dyer, Acting Stated Clerk

Chilly winds, thunderous rains, ice and snow in the Eastern part of the Presbytery -

these formed the context for the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas in Clarksville, at First Presbyterian Church and on the campus of the University of the Ozarks. Despite difficult weather, the meeting itself was warm, exciting, informative, and productive. These are the highlights:

Friday's opening session began in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, following the workshops that began the afternoon and registration on the campus. Greetings were brought by TE Robert Lowry from the congregation and from President Rich Dunsworth for the University.

The Presbytery voted to adopt a new quorum of twenty Teaching Elders and twenty Ruling Elders, from at least twenty different congregations.

The worship service was exciting and beautiful, with leadership from Rich Dunsworth, David Dyer, Elizabeth Gabbard, Bill Galbraith, Sharon Gorman, Samantha Hutto, Clare Kelley, Cynthia Lanphear, Robert Lowry, Heather Patton, Bethany Leigh Qualls, Ryan Smith, Ed Wilkinson, the University of the Ozarks Chamber Singers, the Youth of the Presbytery, and Ruling Elders from First Presbyterian, Clarksville. Outgoing Moderator Clare Kelley preached on Romans 14:1-12 on the need for true unity in the Church. (The text of her sermon is available in the Presbytery Office.) RE Ed Wilkinson was installed as the new Moderator of the Presbytery. The offering of \$1,757.75 went to the Presbytery of Arkansas Scholarship Fund at the University.



TE Clare Kelley (left) welcomes Ed Wilkinson as new Presbytery Moderator

Following the worship, there was a lovely reception in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian.

Saturday's session began with worship at the Rogers Conference Center on the University of the Ozarks campus. It was led by the Youth of the Presbytery and candidate for ordination, Rachel Shepherd delivered the sermon. TE Lacy Sellars

was installed as the Vice-moderator of Presbytery.



Rachel Shepherd (candidate for ordination)



TE Lacy Sellars (newly-installed presbytery Vice-Moderator)

The Theological Discussion was led by Mary Nebelsick and Paul Matheny, missionaries to the Philippines who inspired the Presbytery with the story of their dedicated work there.



Missionaries Paul Matheny (left) and Mary Nebelsick (right)

There were reports from the General Committee, the Nominations Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the Administration Committee, and the Presbyterian Women. David Gill presented a fast-paced report on the excellent state of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. A report on the Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Projects was received, and a report from the Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus was received, as was one from the Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee.

The General Committee, among other actions, moved to approve extending General Presbytery Bill Galbraith's terms of call until June 30, 2015. The Nominations Committee offering of a General Presbytery Search Committee, TE Jeff Price to Moderate, was also approved. Upon the resignation of Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich, which was received with sadness and great thanks for her years of faithful service, Assistant Stated Clerk David Dyer was elected Acting Stated Clerk and a Search Committee, Moderated by TE Steve Hancock was elected. RE NiAnn Thompson was approved to serve as Rev. Dyer's administrative assistant until a new Stated Clerk is elected.

The Presbytery received the report of the Committee on Ministry by TE Dari Rowen and took the needed actions to grant the status of Honorable Retirement to TE Lance Jones, to receive TE Ward Rudolph, to approve the call and install RE Steven Frazier as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton; to approve the call and install TE Katie Cummings as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville; to examine and approve the ordination and installation of Rachel Shepherd as the Transitional Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock; and to approve and commission RE Chuck Olson of Central Presbyterian Church, Russellville as the Commissioned Ruling Elder of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Atkins.



Steven Frazier, new pastor for First--Morrilton



Rev. Georgia Senor (front row, second from left) and members of First--Bentonville welcome Rev. Katie Cummings (second row, second from left) as their new pastor



RE Chuck Olson, CRE for Memorial Presbyterian Church--Atkins

The Presbytery, by defeating a motion from the Listening/Restructure Task Force, provided that the redesign, after further refinement, will be presented at the June, 2015 129th Stated Meeting in Benton.

We then had the joy of hearing the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, TE Kade Curry, Moderator who presented Krista Denne's coming under the care of the Presbytery as a new inquirer.



New Inquirer Krista Denne

The Presbytery voted on the Constitutional Amendments, approving adding the "Confession of Belhar" to the *Book of Confessions*; approving all the other amendments to the *Book of Order*, with the exception of Amendment 14-A on "Renunciation of Jurisdiction" which was defeated. Among those Amendments

approved and sent to the General Assembly was the one seeking to amend W-4.9000 to allow but not require same-gender marriages to be performed by Teaching Elders, and an Amendment mandating all councils of the Church to have Child Protection Policies in place.

Finally, a Commissioner's Resolution was presented and passed to communicate to Governor Asa Hutchinson the Presbytery's opposition to Arkansas House Bill 1228 and Senate Bill 202, which bars localities from passing anti-discrimination laws, and asking for him to use his power to veto this legislation. (The full text of this resolution is available in the Presbytery Office.)

After a very full day, the Presbytery adjourned at 3:30 p.m. and began the journeys home of the tired commissioners and youth.

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Church Employment Opportunities in or near our Presbytery

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.

College Chaplain (Lyon College; Batesville, AR) -- Lyon College seeks an ordained PC(USA) minister to serve as College Chaplain beginning in the summer, 2015. Lyon is a U.S. News and World Report 'top tier' national liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is an equal opportunity employer. Send letter of application, resume (including graduate transcripts), and the names and telephone numbers of three references to: Ms. Clarinda Foote, Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 2317, Batesville, AR 72503-2317 or electronically to jobs@lyon.edu. The starting date is no later than August 1, 2015. Review of application materials will continue until the position is filled.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry -- First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas is praying for a proactive leader with a love for youth and young adults and a shepherd's heart, a mature faith consistent with the Reformed Christian tradition, personal integrity, and an enthusiastic sense of humor and fun combined with a passion for teaching and forming youth and young adults to be committed followers of Jesus. Focus is 80% youth ministry and 20% college and young adult ministry. This is a full-time position with a generous continuing education

allowance and healthcare. Complete position description and contact information available at <http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx>. The position will begin as soon as possible in 2015.

Other Opportunities

Counseling Center Clinical Director (Monticello, AR) -- Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is seeking a Clinical Director for a new nonprofit counseling center in Monticello, AR, which will serve youth, adults and families. A detailed description of the position is available [here](#). You may send a letter of interest and resume to: Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, 1501 N. University Ave., Suite 345, Little Rock, AR 72207 or email to donnamahurin@veralloyd.org.

Hymnals Available -- The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista has recently switched to the new Glory to God hymnals. They have 140 copies of The Presbyterian Hymnals (blue) that are available free of charge. If you are interested in these hymnals, please call the church office at 479-855-2390.

The Bold Word Preaching Conference at Mo-Ranch, April 20-23

Consider joining others for the second Bold Word Preaching Conference at Mo-Ranch, April 20-23, 2015. Bold Word is an exciting opportunity for continuing education and an occasion for enjoying the beautiful Texas Hill Country setting of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly. Excellent leaders have been lined up including: Tom Are, Pastor of Village Church of Prairie Village, Kansas; Diane Givens Moffett, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina; Todd Jones, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee and Susan Henderson, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina. Tom Brown, Director of Music of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Austin, Texas will help lead worship.

To register, go to the Mo-Ranch website: www.moranch.org. You will find under the Camps and Conferences tab another tab for Adult Conferences. Click it to go to the Bold Word site where you may register online. The cost is \$479 for a single room and \$441 for a double. These fees include: 3 nights lodging, 8 meals, conference tuition and great preaching. Transportation would be on your own. If flying, the San Antonio airport is the closest major hub. Austin is a little further but may be more convenient for some. Once it's clear who may be flying, sharing a rental car would be a possibility. Should you have questions about Bold Word, please contact the Mo-Ranch registrar at 800-460-4401, extension 246 or registrar@moranch.org.

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First Presbyterian (North Little Rock) Offering Cold-Weather Shelter

First Presbyterian, North Little Rock (Argenta) will serve as an emergency shelter for homeless families (couples or single adults with children) for whom there is no room in existing shelters on nights when temperatures go below 20 or when there is snow or ice on the ground. Rev. Anne Russ, the church's temporary supply pastor, explains they are part of a network of churches who are taking in different populations when shelters are overcrowded because of weather conditions. It is all being coordinated by The Van, an outreach ministry to the homeless. If churches would like to donate pillows, blankets or sleeping bags, First, NLR (revruss@gmail.com) will gladly accept.

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Update from Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project

For the past 3 ½ years Presbyterian Women from Arkansas Presbytery have inspired their churches, the AR Presbytery mission committee and the Synod of the Sun to donate money to the Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project; as a result eleven Living Waters for the World (LWW) water systems and one Solar under the Sun (SUTS) installation now provide safe water to drink, to cook with, and to bathe babies and senior citizens with for hundreds of people in this "third world" country of Ukraine in Eastern Europe. Nine of the systems were installed in Reformed faith mission facilities; three were public buildings.

Over \$62,000 has been raised by our synod and other PW members throughout the country. Unfortunately our enthusiasm for raising money is fading, but the needs are even more desperate now because of the war that is raging in Ukraine; the cost of goods has sky-rocketed throughout the country. Battles are being fought in Eastern Ukraine, but war affects the whole country. The Reformed Church (we Presbyterians are "first cousins") has worked diligently since Communism fell in Ukraine in 1991 to help the widow, the orphan, the marginalized people - the Roma - and the children.



LWW System installed in Reformed Church Nursing Home -- 2011

We brought two people from Ukraine to the USA to have training in LWW and SUTS and our team of David and Mary Beth Lysobey has worked with this core group on four trips to Ukraine. The last two systems were initiated and installed by Ukrainians, but we provided the money. Our Reformed brothers and sisters still need our money to maintain what they have and to build new systems.



Pre-school students at Reformed Church in Mezogecse enjoying clean water -- Nov 2014

For more information contact:
Mary Beth Lysobey, Initiator
Phone: 870-223-
2724

lysobeym@windstream.net

Donations can be sent to:
Presbytery of Arkansas
9221 N. Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR 72227

Please put this information on the memo line of the check being sent: Ukrainian Water/Solar Project

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People and Church News

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First United, Fayetteville** plans a workshop for church musicians on Feb. 28 led by their organist Jeannie Lee (jalee@uark.edu).

--**First, Arkadelphia** invited members of **West End, Arkadelphia** to the first chili cook-off on Feb. 4.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** started a new program for Kirk members to help visit homebound members.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** was one of many churches to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring hunger-relief program on Feb. 1, Super Bowl Sunday.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** offers adult classes on current events, the fruit of the spirit, Jeremiah and an elective on parenting in the pew.

--**Graham Memorial, Forrest City** sent Valentine boxes to their college students.

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock's** 2015 Cotham Lecturer on May 3-4 is best-selling author and popular blogger Rachel Held Evans.

--**First, Hot Springs** congregation saves quarters for Heifer Project and dimes to purchase Bibles for residents of Vera Lloyd Children's Home.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** hosted a blood drive on Jan. 12, and their men's fellowship on Jan. 17 received \$3 and a can of food for food pantry from each diner for their breakfast.

--**First, Malvern** hosted the Martin Luther King Jr. gathering for the community on Jan. 19.

--**First, Newport** is making their monthly newsletter "The Epistle" available by email with these benefits: receive a few days earlier, in full color, and save time, postage and trees.

--**First, Pine Bluff** began the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday Service of healing and prayers on Feb. 18.

--**Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman** has a regular Saturday mission of supplying up to 250 families with food supplies, cooking a warm breakfast and lunch, having worship, operating a thrift store and cutting hair. On the first Saturday of each month the Mission Committee at **First, Hot Springs** assists.

--**First, Dardanelle** is hosting and co-sponsoring with First UM Church a community-wide "noon-Wednesday-study" each week of Lent.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** is one of the congregations which participated in all four special offerings of the denomination.

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** celebrated Boy Scout Sunday on Feb. 8 with a spaghetti luncheon prepared and served by Pack 10.

--**Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center's** new Eco Center now has an environmental education program designed by Emily Wernsdorfer of York, PA as her capstone project at the UofA Clinton School of Public Service, Little Rock.

News of Our People

--**Rev. Cathy Ulrich** has resigned as Stated Clerk of the presbytery effective March 1 to accept the call as full-time interim Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Denver. She and her husband **Rev. Tom**

Ulrich were co-pastors of **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** for 20 years and moved to Denver on February 23.



Revs. Cathy & Tom Ulrich

--**Ruling Elder Don Marts** completed more than 20 years of service as Clerk of Session at First, Springdale in December. Carolyn Willis began her service as clerk this year.

--**Rev. Bobby Williamson** has earned tenure at Hendrix College, Conway. He is parish associate at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Rev. Jennifer Lord**, a minister member of AR Presbytery, completed her year-long sabbatical from Austin Seminary by walking the ancient Christian pilgrimage route, The Way of St. James from France to Spain.

--**Rev. Fern Davis**, pastor of Holly Grove Presbyterian, was injured in a car wreck Feb. 22 was hospitalized at Baptist, Little Rock and has returned home. She is clerk of the presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission.

--**Rev. Jim Miller**, honorably retired, of Little Rock has completed rehabilitation at Baptist Hospital and returned home. Prayers are appreciated for Jim and his wife **Rev. Catherine Allsbury**.

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Ruling Elder Carol Dunkle** who died on Feb. 2. She was a former moderator of presbytery's Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response and with her late husband Mel delighted in helping congregations and people in need. She was a member of First, Searcy.

--**Savannah Nichols** is the new administrative assistant at First, Bentonville.

--Word has reached the presbytery of the death of **Rev. Lloyd O. DeLong**, 84, honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, on Oct. 8, 2014. Christian sympathy goes to his family. He was ordained in 1958 and came to AR from TX where he was a member of Tres Rios Presbytery. DeLong was pastor of Holly Grove Presbyterian Church from 1988 until his retirement in 1992 and served on the presbytery's Christian Education Committee. His memorial service was held on Oct. 18 at Maximo Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg.

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Search Committee for Stated Clerk

Teaching Elders or Ruling Elders interested in the part-time, paid position of Presbytery Stated Clerk may send resumes to Rev. Steve Hancock, Moderator of Stated Clerk Search Committee as soon as possible. His address is: Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr, Little Rock, AR 72227 (phone: 501-227-000); or email to: stevehancock@secondpreslr.org.

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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.

LENT IS UPON US. MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STUDY AND DEVOTIONAL PREPARATION TIME BEFORE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ARRIVE

Why not try some new resources for use with your congregation or small group?

"What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art" In this 6-part study which can be condensed or used on Palm Sunday or Easter, biblical scholars and a professor of preaching from Emory University's Candler School of Theology discuss Jesus' last week on earth in the artwork of John August Swanson (DVD and discussion guide).

"Five Wishes" is a booklet created by Aging with Dignity, whose mission is to help people plan and receive the care they want in case of a serious illness. In Spanish and English the questions cover such topics as who is the person I want to make health care decisions for me when I can't for myself, my wish for the kind of medical treatment I want or don't want, my wish for how comfortable I want to be, etc.

"Lent for Everyone" is a trio of books for the three years of the lectionary cycle. **Mark, Year B** (Acc. #BK9828) is a daily devotional book by New Testament scholar N. T. Wright for Lent, 2015. Also available are **Matthew, Year A** (Acc. #BK9827) and **Luke, Year C** (Acc. #BK9720). Includes scripture translation, brief reflection and a prayer for the gospels and the Psalm readings for each Sunday. Suitable for individual and group study and reflection.

James W. Moore's "**Give Up Something Bad for Lent: A Lenten Study for Adults**" (Acc. #BK9833) encourages giving up something we are better off not doing: envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment or negative thinking. Seven sessions each featuring a scripture reference, personal reading, questions and closing prayer could be used during Holy Week.

"**The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life**" (Acc. #DVD9818 with leader guide) by Anne Graham Lotz presents the life of Abraham in seven sessions.

Excellent children's DVDs help them put together the Bible stories into their own story. This is a good time to use the New Testament DVDs. "**What's in the Bible? Vol. 10 Jesus is the Good News!**" (Acc. #DVD9783) in two 25-minute episodes of the four gospels covers God's Perfect Timing (400 years between the testaments) and The Messiah Has Come (Jesus' life and ministry.) "**What's in the Bible? Vol. 11 Spreading the Good News**" (Acc. #DVD9784) covers the Book of Acts in two episodes from Pentecost to Paul. Finally there's "**What's in the Bible? Vol. 12 Letters from Paul**" (Acc. #DVD9813) with two episodes on the 13 letters from Paul and the big ideas they present.

Rhyming Arch books have taught generations their first Bible stories. Have you seen "**John's Easter Story**" for children?

PREVIEW VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM NOW

YOUR Resource Center has "**Concordia's Underwater Quest**" which is bi-lingual in Spanish and "**Cokesbury's G Force: God's Love in Action**" super starter kit. **Underwater Quest** includes these stories: Creation (Genesis), Adam in the Garden (Genesis), Jesus' birth (Luke), Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John), and the New Jerusalem (Revelation). **G Force** covers these stories: God calls Moses (Exodus), Solomon builds the temple (1 and 2 Chronicles), Four Friends Help (Mark), Healing of Bartimaeus (Mark) and Women find the empty tomb (Luke). We also have a large number of exam kits on themes and permanent undated VBS idea books.

This year I will be working each Tuesday (7:30-5:30) and most of Wednesday (7-1:30) and can easily be reached other weekdays by email, text or cell phone (501.337.2360).

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 of Arkansas Youth News

Sr. High Youthquake 2015

**GROUP REGISTRATIONS DUE (POSTMARKED) BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27!
March 13-15 at Ferncliff Camp**

All 9th-12th graders and their Adult Advisors invited!!

**Keynote -- Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard
Chaplain -- Rev. Robert Lowry**

\$95 per youth/ Adult Advisor
\$65 per Leader Corps (18-22 yrs.)

Registration is done through churches!

More information can be found at
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Sr.%20High%20Youthquake%202015%20Registration%20packet.pdf>

Questions? Contact SHYQ Director Bud McConkie at sbmconkie@gmail.com or Britton Varn, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery, at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

**Join us for Presbytery of Arkansas
2015 Youth Summer Trips!!**

Mayflower/ Vilonia Disaster Recovery Mini Mission
June 14-17, 2015 | Current 8th-12th graders | \$60

**Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch
in the Texas Hill Country**

July 4-9, 2015
Current 6th-8th graders | \$575

**Montreat Youth Conference
in Montreat, North Carolina**
July 25-Aug. 1, 2015
Current 8th-12th graders | \$750

And Save the Date for Pathways, August 8!
Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. Watch for info!

Youth from all congregations are welcome to attend!
Full information packets and Registration information can be found at
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%202015%20-%20Info%20and%20Registration%20forms.pdf>

**Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the
Presbytery? "Like"**

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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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Congregational Care & Development Invites You to the 2015 Annual Spring Retreat

Your Committee on Congregational Care & Development invites you to the 2015 Annual Retreat from March 5th-7th, 2015 at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center. The theme of this year's retreat is "Unlocking the Door." The Keynote Speaker is Jane Lee Wolfe from Woodstock, VT. You may register online through Ferncliff at the following web address: <http://goo.gl/S7ov4p> or you may download the retreat's brochure [here](#). For more information, contact Rev. Jeff Price at 501-868-5848.

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Save the Date -- The P.L.A.C.E Returns This Summer

Back by popular demand, the presbytery of Arkansas will again host "The P.L.A.C.E." collection of workshops on Saturday, August 8th, 2015 at Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock). For a flyer with more information, [click here](#).

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**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

It's Tornado Season -- Where to Evacuate Your Church?

Q: Do you know -- to what location(s) you would evacuate your people in case of an approaching tornado or a fire in the church building?

A: If you don't know, now's the time to decide. For a potential tornado, select an interior room with sturdy walls and no windows.

For cases of fire, select a meeting point outside the building, one that's easy enough to go to and yet far enough away that falling debris and embers would be unlikely to reach the site.

For either situation, work with ushers about how to evacuate safely your less mobile members and your children. And communicate your plan to everyone in the church. We even suggest that you drill....

By thinking these things through now, you may be able to keep an emergency from becoming a disaster.

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. Additional information is available at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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New Region Map

The Presbytery Restructure Task Force presented a new map of Regions for the Presbytery of Arkansas. This new map was approved by a vote of the presbytery in October. For a list of the churches in each region, [click here](#). For a map with the new regions, [click here](#).

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Mark your calendars to visit Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' children's home this year

You are invited to come to Vera Lloyd's children's home for our annual Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day Luncheon and the 4th annual Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun run for kids.

Vera Lloyd's Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day Luncheon

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Annie B. Wells Children's Home campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello

Includes tours, program, Pink Hat Parade, prizes, lunch and cheering on youth as they race cardboard boats

RSVP by calling 501-666-8195 or emailing Melissa Hendricks at melissahendricks@veralloyd.org.

4th annual Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun run for kids

Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m.

Annie B. Wells Children's Home campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello

Vera Lloyd welcomes new members of its Board of Directors

Vera Lloyd is pleased to recognize new members of the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' Board of Directors. They are:

Anne Allen, Little Rock; Marie K. Bishop, Hot Springs; Steve Moss, Little Rock; Julie C. Robbins, Little Rock; Angela Smiley, Little Rock; Larry Stanley, Hot Springs; Jeffrey Stephens, Hot Springs and Carol Sue Wooten, Fayetteville.

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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 Reminder

When Little Rock schools close for winter weather, the presbytery office closes also. We ask for your patience if you call and/or email the office during winter weather closings.

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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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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Acting Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [LACY SELLARS](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a council 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, a new church development and one ministry 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>