

# May 2015

# The Banner

**Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas** 

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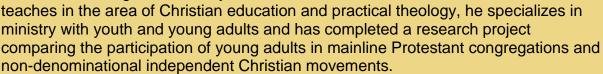
About the Presbytery of Arkansas

# "Welcome to Rodger Nishioka"

Dear friends,

I know you will be pleased to welcome Dr. Rodger Nishioka to the Presbytery of Arkansas for the June 6 meeting of the Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church of Benton.

Rodger Nishioka holds the Benton Family chair in Christian education as an associate professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. While he



Prior to his joining the faculty at Columbia, Rodger served for 12 years as denominational staff in youth & young adult ministry for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Rodger received his undergraduate degree from Seattle Pacific University, his master's degree in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, a Doctor of Divinity degree from Austin College and his Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

He has published several articles, chapters, and books largely focused on ministry with youth and young adults and the educational ministry of the church as spiritual formation.

Rodger is the son of an honorably retired Presbyterian pastor and, as he says, "Is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus."



Dr. Rodger Nishioka

At the meeting, Rodger will preach during the 10:00 service of worship and at 1:00 will also lead a presentation of the Church's understanding of and outreach to young persons who are, "spiritual but not religious."

Looking forward,

#### Bill

### General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

	May	
	14	Arkansas Interfaith Network, First United Methodist, Little Roo
	26-27	Leadership Convocation, Irving, Texas
	31	PreachFirst, Yellville
	June	
	6	Presbytery Meeting, FPC, Benton
	10	Jackson Cook Lecture, Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City
	14	Bryan Bond Installation, First Presbyterian, Van Buren
	18	Mo-Ranch Strategic Planning Gathering, FPC, Dallas, Texas
	21	PreachFPC, Benton
27-July05 Vacation		
	July	
	7	COM meeting, FPC, Conway
	12	PreachFPC, Little Rock
	19	PreachFPC, Little Rock
	26	PreachFPC, Little Rock

# **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.

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 <a href="http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx">http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx</a>. The position will begin as soon as possible in 2015.

Little Rock YAV Site Coordinator -- The Little Rock Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) site coordinator implements the YAV program at the Little Rock site and promotes both the Little Rock YAV site and the YAV program as a whole. The Little Rock YAV site will focus on the areas of environmental sustainability and emergency preparedness, and it is a partnership between Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The site coordinator is the point person for coordinating the work of the YAVs and the collaboration between local agencies, staff, governing board, and volunteers.

This is a year-round, half-time position (20 hours per week). Compensation will be \$20,000 annually. For full job description, further information or to apply, please contact Jason Woods, Search Committee Chair at jasommwoods@gmail.com or send resume and cover letter to Ferncliff Camp, 1720 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock, AR 72223 (ferncliff@ferncliff.org).

First Presbyterian Church--Bentonville is seeking teachers for their *My Friends* & *Me* Daycare -- Full-time Lead Teacher (2-year-olds) for 2015-2016 school year, and Nursery Workers (Sunday mornings and other occasional weekday Bible studies and church events). For more information, contact Mrs. Z Cooper at 479-273-5450 or <a href="mailto:zkcooper@fpcbentonville.org">zkcooper@fpcbentonville.org</a>.

### **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 <a href="here.">here.</a> 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 <a href="mailto:donnamahurin@veralloyd.org">donnamahurin@veralloyd.org</a>.

Pastor to Host Trip to Germany & Austria -- Kirk in the Pines pastor, Bill Bailey, will host a 12-day tour to the Best of Germany and Austria, Nov. 2-13. Fellow Presbyterians and their friends are invited to join the group visiting these beautiful countries. Destinations include Berlin, Wittenberg (Luther sites), Leipzig, Marbug, Frankfort, Rothenburg, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich and more. Reservations are being accepted on a first received basis. For a brochure with the itinerary and more information, email kirktour@gmail.com.

**Short-term ESL Teacher Needed in the Dominican Republic --** A short-term volunteer English as Second Language teacher is needed to work with Haitians in the Dominican Republic. The plan is for an intensive English school, July 22-29, working with Journey Into Hope in Sabaneta, Dominican Republic. Spanish or French would be helpful.

For information on the organization, go to: <a href="www.JourneyIntoHope.org">www.JourneyIntoHope.org</a>.

Please contact Rev. David Schaller (Faith Presbyterian Church/Horseshoe Bend, AR) 870.750.0028 for more information.

**Big Tent 2015 coming soon --** PC(USA)'s Big Tent event will be held July 30-August 1 in Knoxville, TN. There will be events and seminars for every age group. Registration must be received by June 19th. For more information, visit this website: <a href="http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site\_media/media/uploads/big\_tent/pdfs/big-tent-2015-gen-info.pdf">http://www.presbyterianmission.org/site\_media/media/uploads/big\_tent/pdfs/big-tent-2015-gen-info.pdf</a>

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### **News of Our People**

- **--Rev. Debbie Freeman,** interim pastor at First, Jacksonville, will be making a pilgrimage in Spain beginning May 20 to walk the 500-600 miles on the Way of St. James. Debbie's husband, Rev. Jim Freeman, a former member of this presbytery now serving in Pines Presbytery, will receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Presbyterian Seminary on May 16.
- --Brittany Fiscus, an inquirer in ministry under care of this presbytery, will preach on May 17 and 24 at her home church, First, Jacksonville. Her father Glenn Fiscus is a member of presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.
- **--Hannah Lahodny** completed her part-time work as youth director at First, Rogers on May 10 and graduated last week from UofA, Fayetteville with a B.S. in biology. This summer she will be the Assistant Program Director at Ferncliff Camp, and then she plans to travel with World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. She is a member of Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- **--General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith** was elected chair of the Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, Hunt, TX at the spring board meeting.
- --Congratulations to **Mary Shaw** on the birth of a granddaughter Hazel Tyler Elison on March 6 in Rogers. Proud parents are Marisa Shaw and Torrey Elison. Mary is director of Christian Education at First, Springdale, mission coordinator for United Campus Ministry in Fayetteville, and preaches monthly at Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church.

### **News of Our Congregations and Ministries**

- **--First, Morrilton** publishes in their monthly newsletters the changing names of weekly ushers, acolytes and collection counters, the name of the person who opens and closes the building that month and the names of those who teach Sunday School.
- --Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista enjoyed a Ferncliff Get-Away April 21-24 when they worked, assembled disaster kits, relaxed and renewed. They will celebrate the church's 30th anniversary on June 14 with a catered dinner.
- **--First, Hot Springs** Mission Committee has received on-time repayment on their micro-loan to a Third World entrepreneur.
- **--Wynne Presbyterian** children decorated a cross with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday, and Presbyterian Women sold Mother's Day cards to support Healthy Women/Healthy Families Project in Africa.
- --First, Pine Bluff hosted the first quarter birthday party for residents at Trinity Village in Pine Bluff.
- **--Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** is sending out their monthly newsletter electronically, posting it on their webpage and on Facebook.
- --First, Dardanelle is planning their fourth summer of Tuesday Food Pantry Days.
- **--Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** Men's Club coordinates transportation for a member to receive chemo treatments, is working on a ramp project and cooking for Wednesday night Bible study.
- --First, Marianna and First, McGehee are two of many churches that participated this year in the denomination's One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.
- **--Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge** contributes to the Cents-ability (previously 2 cents a meal) offering monthly.
- --First, Rogers will begin a new summer schedule on June 7: Adult Sunday School at 9, worship at 10. Sunday School for all ages at 11.
- **--Holiday Island Presbyterian** is planning to distribute "Welcome to our Church" flyers to nearly 200 people new to their community. **First, Eureka Springs** has planned preaching, pastoral care and communion service while their pastor is on sabbatical.
- --Walnut Grove Presbyterian, Farmington observed a service of dissolution on Sunday, May 3.

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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.



First, thank you to everyone who expressed sympathy and condolences to me and our family on the sudden death of my husband J.D. Thompson on April 29. We have felt and continue to covet your prayers and support.

#### 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 <a href="www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas">www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas</a>. Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email <a href="revruss@gmail.com">revruss@gmail.com</a> will be glad to answer your questions.

#### **RESOURCE CENTER RAVE REVIEW**

Sometimes the rave reviews compliment a resource a teacher/leader has used and then graciously passed on to the Resource Center. Director of Christian Education Susie Wright, Westminster, Hot Springs endorses John Ortberg's book "Who is this Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus" which looks at the influence of Jesus on art, science, government, medicine and education. Book is accompanied by study guide divided into five sessions. She says "It is a wonderful Lent or anytime book, which our class eagerly read. We tackled one of the stand-alone chapters each week."

#### **BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE SUMMER**

"Journey Thru the Bible" uses the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and a leader's guide to provide questions to help readers get into the main text, information on the setting, language and meaning for first hearers/readers, life applications, and a daily plan for reading the whole Bible verse by verse. YOUR Resource Center has several journeys from the Old and New Testaments.

"Genesis to Revelation" is keyed to the New International Version of the Bible on three levels: what does the Bible say, what does this passage mean and how does the scripture relate to my life. Student books either address one book or up to 8 books of the Bible, and there are teacher books for the Old and the New Testaments.

"Push It: Young Adults Engage the Bible" uses the New Revised Standard Version and is designed by young adults for young adults to encourage asking critical questions of scripture and connecting scripture with their lives in weekly or monthly groups, retreats, mission projects or fellowship groups. We have all four volumes.

#### SPRING READING POSSIBILITIES

"Sacred Pause: A Creative Retreat for the Word-weary Christian" by Rachel G. Hackenberg offers twelve light-hearted chapters to "reconnect with the beauty of words".

"The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are, Your guide to a wholehearted life" by Brene' Brown is a #1 New York Times Best Seller

which shares ten guideposts on the power of Wholehearted living, a way of engaging with the world from a place of worthiness.

An illustrated book for all ages "Let There Be Light" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu retells the biblical story of creation in seven days.

WE ARE OFFERING MULTIPLE COPIES OF MANY OF THE TITLES IN THE COVENANT LIFE CURRICULUM, AN EXCELLENT BUT AGING SET OF BOOKS FOR CHRISTIAN STUDENTS OF ALL AGES. I CAN BRING THEM TO YOU AT THE JUNE 6TH MEETING OF PRESBYTERY AT FIRST, BENTON IF YOU WILL LET ME KNOW YOUR WISHES BY MAY 29.

This year I will be working each Tuesday and Wednesday (7:45-5:15) 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 <u>www.presbyteryofarkansas.org</u> 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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# First, Benton to Host Presbytery Meeting

First Presbyterian, Benton will host the 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on Saturday, June 6. Registration begins at 8:30, gavel is at 9:45, and worship at 10:00. Highlights include celebrating the ministry of General Presbyter Bill Galbraith over lunch; evangelism presentation at 1:00 and preaching by Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Seminary; the honorable retirement of a teaching elder; welcoming two new ministers; voting on a candidate for Stated Clerk; and discussion and voting on the presbytery's proposed restructuring plan at 11:00. Plan now to attend!

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Katie Cummings Installed as Pastor of First, Bentonville



Rev. Katie Cummings was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville, Arkansas on Sunday, April 26th at 4:00 PM. Members of the installation commission pictured above are (left to right): Presbytery Moderator Ed Wilkinson, TE Liz Wagner, RE Lynn Monroe, TE Katie Cummings, TE Nancy Taylor, TE Mike Cole, TE Stewart Smith, RE Chris Miller, TE Georgia Senor, and General Presbyter Bill Galbraith.

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# **Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News**

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 <a href="http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%2">http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%2</a> <a href="http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%2">http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summe

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

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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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## The P.L.A.C.E Returns This Summer--registration begins soon

Don't forget! The P.L.A.C.E. is coming again! The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment. Saturday, August 8th at 2nd Pres in Little Rock. Not only will you be able to choose 3 workshops from a list of 30, but there is something for every age group in your congregation. Preschool child care, Elementary Mini-Ferncliff in Bible Village rooms, and the national youth leadership training event called PATHWAYS in the youth house. Save the date and plan to bring a van full from your congregation. Registration opens June 1st online. Congregational packets will be available at the June 6th Presbytery meeting.

For a flyer with more information, click here.

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Registration is now open for Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage #23--October 15-18 at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Are you looking for a boost in your faith journey? Consider attending the Arkansas

Presbyterian Pilgrimage to be held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center from October 15 through 18, 2015. The pilgrimage weekend will begin at 5:30 pm on Thursday, and will end about 5 pm on Sunday. There will be plenty of worship, prayer, food, study, fellowship, and much more. The cost to attend the weekend is \$200. Scholarships are available if you need financial aid.

Applications are available on the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage website www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org.

You may also pick up participant applications from the Presbytery Office in Little Rock. If you have any questions, you may contact the Registrar at ARPC.registrar@gmail.com

The deadline for applications is October 5, 2015.

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### AR Presbyterian donations Help Build Homes in Tornado Zone

March 19 was a banner day for seven homeowners in Mayflower! On that day seven new houses built by Christian Aid Ministries, in collaboration with Inter-Faith and Partners Disaster Alliance, a long-term recovery group, and Habitat for Humanity of Faulkner County were dedicated. Five more houses built by Apostolic Christian World Relief were dedicated March 21 in Vilonia! Habitat and Vilonia Disaster Recovery Alliance, a long-term recovery group, collaborated on the five.



Mayflower homeowner cuts ribbon to her new house, March 19, 2015

Arkansas Presbyterians were there, too. Ruling Elder Sharon Hankins, member of 2nd Presbyterian Church Little Rock, and Teaching Elder Ike Brighton, honorably retired and living in Maumelle, have recently been elected co-chairs of IFPA.

Presbytery of Arkansas generosity is helping with the recovery. Thanks to 65 separate donations totaling \$37,355.42 from Arkansas Presbyterians last year, your Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee has committed \$30,000 to long-term recovery (so far). This money went to the two long-term recovery groups and to a joint sub-committee known as the Unmet Needs Table. (Case managers and funding organizations meet to review and fund survivor clients' unmet needs.)

The DPRC thanks you for your donations and reminds you that this recovery and the need for funding will continue until the last unmet need is met.

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

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## **Report from Arkansas Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering**

The Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women held their annual Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 11, 2015, hosted by the ladies of First Presbyterian Church of Conway.

The ladies were welcomed to the Gathering Business Meeting by Bettye Balmaz and the Rev. Howard Reed. Janice Mitchell lighted the Christ Candle and announcements were made by Betty Glenn, Moderator. The Rev. Kathy Reeves, Mission Associate for Presbyterian Women, serving at the PW National Offices in Louisville, was the keynote speaker. Updates on mission, peace/justice projects were given by Mary Beth Lysobey, Susan Heily, Carolyn Nash, and Pam Rawlins.

The business meeting was conducted by Betty Glenn, Moderator, with recognition given of the 2014-2015 coordinating team members. Installation of the 2015-2016 coordinating team was conducted by the Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins, Transitional Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pine Bluff.

The 2015-2016 coordinating team members of the Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women are as follows:

Moderator, Jeanne Lloyd

Co Vice-Moderators, Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers

Secretary/Historian, Kathy White

Treasurer, Karene Jones

Mission Coordinator, Maryann Sweeney

Cluster II Leader, Ginni Miller

Cluster III Leader, Linda Norvell

Cluster IV Leader, Janice Mitchell

Cluster VI Leaders, Elaine Watson and Burva Ann Nugent

Cluster VII Leaders, Bettye Balmaz and Lorraine Belote

Cluster IX Leader, Kaye Lowe

The worship service was conducted by the Rev. Becky Purcell, Pastor of First, Prairie Grove.

The ingathering and worship offerings benefitted the Cradle Care Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Conway.

The gathering concluded with a lovely luncheon prepared by the ladies of First Presbyterian, Conway.

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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 2014. For a list of the churches in each region, <u>click here.</u> For a map with the new regions, <u>click here.</u>

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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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### 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 <a href="http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org">http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org</a>

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