

May 2016

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Hopeful Travels"

By Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyterian

I have been on the road for much of the past two weeks attending events that were focused on the future of our beloved Presbyterian Church (USA). The first event was a leadership forum sponsored and hosted by the Synod of the Sun. The title of the forum was

"The Presbyterian Church in a Changing Landscape." Our own Ted Belden, Ruling Elder from First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville served on the leadership team. We heard from Greg Smith who is on staff at the Pew Research Center. The Pew Research Center is an independent, non-partisan, public opinion polling and demographic research center. It is a non-profit "fact tank" that has a strict non-advocacy policy. There are no hidden agendas with this group - they poll and report their findings. Much of our discussion centered around the



religious "nones." The "nones" is a category of people that check "none" when describing their religious affiliation. The group includes people who self-identify as atheists or agnostics, as well as those who say their religion is "nothing in particular". This group is not uniformly nonreligious. Most of them say they believe in God, and about a third say religion is at least somewhat important in their lives. A poll conducted in 2014 of 35,000 adults in all 50 states shows that "nones" now make up 23% of U.S. adults, up from 16% in 2007. And while there are "nones" in all age groups, the younger population (millennials and those that follow) have a higher percentage of "nones" in their ranks. We spent time talking about the question of "why" this group is growing so rapidly. There are not conclusive answers to that question but after learning more about the "nones", our group was convinced that for those "nones" who might be willing to give church a try, the Presbyterian Church (USA) would be one of the churches they would be attracted to. That was a hopeful observation after hearing some pessimistic statistics. You would have been proud of and encouraged by Anne Russ and Ted Belden who both made inspirational presentations at the event.

The second event I attended was a Presbytery Leader Formation training event. Twenty-four presbytery executives with 3 years or less of experience gathered for training and to talk about ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in these challenging times. I sense that there is a growing understanding among the presbyteries that we must embrace doing ministry differently than we have done in the past. I can tell you that there was a level of excitement and optimism

among the group even as we discussed a myriad of challenging and difficult issues we face in our work. I was the second oldest in our first year group which indicates the denomination is getting some younger leadership in the mid-governing bodies.

The immediate future of our presbytery includes an upcoming meeting of presbytery on Saturday, June 4. Pulaski Heights Presbyterian and Westminster Presbyterian will jointly host the upcoming meeting at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. We will meet in a beautiful sanctuary located in a quaint and wonderful neighborhood of Little Rock. The meeting will begin at 9:45 am which will hopefully help most of the commissioners to avoid having to spend the night. During our worship service we will commission our General Assembly commissioners and our youth that will be going on our Presbytery wide summer trips to Montreat, Triennium and Mo-Ranch. I pray for hopeful travels for our youth and General Assembly Commissioners this summer, and pray for hopeful travels for each of you as together we seek "to make the body of Christ visible". May each of you have "hopeful travels" as we come together to Little Rock on June 4. I am thankful to be a "hopeful traveler" with each of you in our common ministry together.

Blessings,

Stewart

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Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery

Administrative Assistant -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock seeks an individual who is a self-starter with communication and organizational skills and experience with Quickbooks, payroll, bookkeeping, and taxes . Website experience is a plus. The position is Monday through Friday, 25 hours per week, with the schedule adjustable to accommodate a parent with school aged children. Please send resumes and references to parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net or fax 501-753-0325.

Leadership Initiative Intern (United Campus Ministry--Fayetteville)

-- United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas has received a Lily Foundation grant which allows the ministry to hire up to 5 student interns each

year (approximately 5 hours per week) to explore faith and ministry ideas and opportunities. Students will develop their "ideal" job description, and UCM will match them with a local church or ministry. The students will meet with mentors/advisors and other interns through the school year, will report on their work periodically, and will spend a weekend at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. Interns are expected to be leaders within UCM and participate in the life of the ministry. For more information (including an application) [click here.](#)

Director of Community Engagement (United Campus Ministry--Fayetteville)

-- The United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas seeks a part-time (15 hours/week) employee to assist with fundraising on a large scale, starting an endowment, grant writing, and education of their board on fundraising activities. For a complete job description, [click here.](#)

Young Adult Ministry Position (non-ordained) -- Second Presbyterian (Little Rock) -- Second Presbyterian Church Little Rock is looking to hire a non-ordained part-time (12-15 hours a week) person to provide staff leadership for our Young Adult Ministry. Strong candidates will have the following qualities:

- * A thoughtful and mature Christian faith
- * A strong commitment to the mission and ministry of Second Presbyterian Church
- * An engaging personality that is marked by warmth, energy and good humor
- * Familiarity and comfort with emerging uses of social media

Position descriptions and application information can be found on the Second Presbyterian Church website at www.secondpreslr.org. Please send resumes and references to tracymay@secondpreslr.org or fax 501-227-6513.

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People and Church News

News of Our Congregations

--**Wynne Presbyterian** is feeding the local soccer teams and prints "read ahead in Acts" suggestions to prepare for listening to the next sermon.

--**First Yellville's** 8th annual dinner theater and silent auction on June 3 will benefit Vera Lloyd Home.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay**, hosted "Hope Across Arkansas" Alzheimer's workshop for caregivers and those wanting to learn about the disease on April 29. The 35th

anniversary of the church is on Oct. 30.

--**First, Malvern** Presbyterian Women sponsored an indoor yard sale on May 6-7 to benefit mission projects.

--**First, Dardanelle** held "Wills Emphasis Sunday" on May 1 and encourages members to wear flame colors of red or orange on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

--**First, Morrilton** schedules youth group on Wednesday evenings and men's breakfast on Thursday mornings.

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy is extended to the friends of **Rev. Reinhold Schmidt, Jr.**, 83, who died on April 18, 2016 in Townsend, MT. He was a minister member of the Presbytery of AR.

A native of Chicago, "Reiny" earned a MA from the University of KS., BD and Th. D from San Francisco Seminary where he was part-time faculty, and was ordained in 1963 in Salina, KS. He served churches in Missouri and Kansas and came to AR in 1978 as pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock. Later he labored as interim pastor at St. Andrews, Little Rock and Central, Pine Bluff, before retiring in 1998 and later was interim at First, Benton. He is gratefully remembered for establishing the Laurence E. Schmidt Counseling Center through the Vera Lloyd Home to minister to church professionals and other individuals in need of therapy. He served on this presbytery's personnel committee and Committee on Ministry and with Presbyterian Family Services, after establishing the AR Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

At his request no memorial service was held and his ashes were scattered near his home. No surviving relatives are known.

--**Rev. J. Q. Williams**, honorably retired, has moved from Springdale to Mountain Home.

--**Rev. Jim Farley III** has resigned as pastor of Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village.

--Christian sympathy goes to retired Certified Christian Educator **Linda LeBron** and family on the death of her mother Dorothy Whidden in Little Rock on April 25. Linda and her mother are members of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, and Linda is a member of the presbytery's Resource Center Advisory Board.

--**Rev. Catherine Allsbury**, honorably retired, began duties on May 1 as part-time Director of Reception and Assimilation of New Members at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. She is moderator of presbytery's Committee on Administration.

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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:45 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.

--It's the time of the year when many churches elect those who will serve in the ordered ministries of deacon or ruling elder. Following that election comes the time of training and preparation when each should receive the new "**Book of Order 2015-2017**" (part II of the PCUSA Constitution) which is available from Presbyterian Distribution Services in regular print, large print or downloadable file.

ARE SPECIAL SPEAKERS COMING TO YOUR CHURCH? SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

The Resource Center Advisory Board, which oversees YOUR Resource Center, is trying to gather information on special lecture series or guest speakers coming to congregations through this year. The hope is to compile a list of dates, locations, and topics open to visitors from beyond your congregations so that in our connectional church others might benefit from the educational opportunities offered nearby during Lent, this summer or fall. Please send your information to niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org, giving name, phone, address and city of your church; date, time and location of the special educational opportunity; and name, credential and topic of the speaker. We will publicize these events in The Banner through May and then in addition, will create a brochure for distribution at the June presbytery meeting so these opportunities may be shown in one place for your planning convenience.

RAVE REVIEWS

--Mattie Seward, First, Searcy endorses "**Don't Sit on Your Stuff: A Bible Study for Youth**" (Acc. #DVD9403). "Youth in our Sunday School class thought Ted and Lee were hilarious. They made a good presentation on using your time and talents, what to do with all your 'stuff,' and affirmed that everyone has something to give." This 21-minute DVD presents Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman as disciples Peter and Andrew exploring the parable of the master and his three servants. Also on the DVD, which includes a printed study guide, are an original song of the story of Mary washing Jesus' feet with perfume and the parable of the widow's gift of all in the temple along with a glimpse of a youth group who learns to give to one of their own battling cancer. Seward also liked "**The Dating Game: Dating, The Bible, and Teenagers**" (Acc. #DVD8907) which includes a leader's guide. This DVD study offered 5 segments, one on setting priorities of what you would individually take with you if you had to abandon home on short notice and reaching a consensus with peers on those priorities.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM YOUR RESOURCE CENTER

"**2016-2017 PW/Horizons Bible Study Who Is Jesus? What A Difference a Lens Makes**" by Judy Yates Siker. This nine-lesson study is "a journey to expand our understanding on who Jesus was and is-a journey of our hearts and our minds, a journey that we will take together." The lenses used to look at Jesus, and the focus of each lesson, include: According to Mark, According to Luke, According to John, According to Paul, According to Hebrews, According to the Non-canonical Gospels, According to the Other Abrahamic Faiths, and According to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations. Many of the women's groups in the congregations in this Presbytery favor the Horizons Bible Study for their "school year" study. Watch for companion pieces of a DVD, poster, workshop for leaders and more.

WHY NOT PLAN FOR THE LARGEST GROUP IN YOUR CONGREGATION?

"**2016 Older Adult Ministries Planning Guide**" This annual publication from the PC(USA) offers these ideas: Starting from Scratch: Older Adult Ministry 101; Developing a Culture of Creativity in

Congregations; Have You Met Your Third Thirty Yet? (referring to the third 30 years of life); The Art of Listening; Worship Resources for Older Adult Sunday; What the Church Can Do to Minister with Persons Living with Dementia; Care Visitor Ministry; Telling Your Faith Story and others.

DON'T LOSE YOUR MOMENTUM FOR LEARNING THIS SUMMER!

Try an all-church study! "**John: The Gospel of Light and Life**" by Adam Hamilton. This six-week study, designed for Lent but useful any season, explores the major themes of the Gospel of John with 10-16 minute videos of the Word Made Flesh, Miraculous Signs of Jesus, The "I AM" Sayings of Jesus, Farewell Discourse, Arrest/Trial/Crucifixion of the King, and Eternal Life. Set includes hardback book, DVD, leader guide for adult group, youth study book, and children's leader guide.

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 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 new Church and Its Mission Area)

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How Did We Get Here?

Rev. Michael Vinson, Staff Resource
Congregational Vitality

I'm not talking about that question that children often ask when wondering about where babies come from. I'm talking about our history. Your history, my history, the history of our faith communities and our denomination. You might remember that last month I made the somewhat bold statement that all ministry is transitional ministry. And that whether we know it or not, the institutional church is in a time of transition. So, it is good for us to consider ways to navigate that transition and one way we do that collectively and individually is to look at our history.

If you have ever been in a therapeutic relationship with a therapist to help discern what is going on in your life, you may have noticed that one of the things that a therapist looks for are patterns of behavior related to relationship and situations in your life. In recognizing these patterns of behavior we can get some insight into how we handle them well and what we can do to handle them better the next time a similar situation comes up...and a similar situation *always* comes up. A good therapist or spiritual guide will also help you look into the kinds of relationships you have and how they are life-nurturing or life-depleting and help you discern what choices you could make in order to have more life-nurturing relationships. And the spiritual director or guide will always help you look for where you thought God was present and where you thought God was absent in relationship and situations. These reflective looks on our past help us to be informed as we work to shape our future.

The same is true for faith communities. When was the last time you took a reflective look at the history of your congregation? A reflective look into the past can be very helpful in navigating the sea of transition that we are all sailing at this moment in history.

When working with the history of a congregation it is important to come to terms with who we are or have been in the past. That includes accepting our glorious past and our not so glorious past. It includes reflecting on the past to see where we have done things really well, where we have made a mess of things and why.

Our history can be very informative in helping us navigate these times of transition. We can look at the past and see how we behaved in challenging times in the past and see what worked to get us through the challenging transitional times and what things caused us problems and grief. All faith communities and all of us individually have been through these times of transition whether it be the leaving of a pastor or the death of a loved one.

Reflecting on the history of your congregation will inevitably bring up some grief and anger. Sometimes this grief and anger have been repressed for a long time and have in fact become an obstacle to moving forward. Reflecting on our history provides us with an opportunity to work on unresolved issues including unresolved conflict. It also helps us identify our fears and to identify and work on areas of our individual and collective lives that need healing. It also encourages us when we see visible signs of God's work among us and it give us an opportunity to ponder the times when it seemed like God abandoned us.

When working to come to terms with our history, it is important to do so in a safe and non-judgemental way. It is important to be intentional about how the stories will be told and documented. There will be stories of woundedness and some thought should be given as to how those stories will be honored and respected. Stories of anger and sadness will also arise and they need to be heard and honored as well. They do not need to be judged and discussed. They need to be heard.

Reflecting on our history, where we have been, how we got to where we are, can be very helpful in moving through the transitions we all face at this moment in history. It can also be helpful in discerning next steps in ministry. If you are interested in how to work with the history of your congregation in order to discern next steps in ministry please feel free to contact me.

Rev. Michael Vinson
Presbytery of Arkansas
mvinson17@gmail.com

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Get Ready for The P.L.A.C.E.!!

The Third Annual "The P.L.A.C.E.", Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment, is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2016 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. We are ready to offer a good variety of workshops for church leaders, teachers, officers and pastors, including:

- Navigating Change, Personal and Congregational

- What to do in active shooter situation
- Congregational Disaster Preparedness
- For the Beauty of the Skies: How perception of beauty informs our theology of God
- Zombies and Easter Hats: What the Walking Dead can teach us about resurrection
- Clerk of Session Training for new clerks
- Changes in the Board of Pension Plan
- Equipping congregations to help people age with grace and dignity.
- Questions for the new GP: FAQ for Stewart Smith
- Healthy Boundaries 101
- End of Life: Life's Last Great Challenge
- Presbyterian Pilgrimage
- Spirituality Center: How to create one in your church. Second Presbyterian will have a Spirituality center set up for us to experience that day.

If you have workshop ideas please contact Kristi Button at kbutton@fupcfay.org as soon as you can.

THE P.L.A.C.E. is Saturday, August 6th from 9:30 to 2:45:

We begin the day together at 9:30am with registration, gather for worship at 10:00 am and then offer three workshop sessions, with lunch between the first and second session. We conclude the day at 2:45.

WATCH FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION IN JUNE AND JULY:

It is very important to register on-time. Registration is \$15 and registrations by July 27 will include a lunch. After the 27th, the event cost will increase to \$20 and it will not include a lunch. We will offer a restaurant list for nearby restaurants.

Childcare is available for \$10/ child with a \$25/ family maximum. Children should bring a bag lunch.

Mini-Ferndcliff camp will be offered for elementary children. Children should bring a bag lunch.

Getting excited about the 2016 event? Let's keep a great thing going!

LEADERS for 2017 P.L.A.C.E. are needed

This event has become an annual opportunity, which people around the Presbytery have come to look forward to and enjoy.

If you have really enjoyed this event and maybe even have thoughts of how you could take it to

the next-level, please contact the Church and Its Mission Committee. We are looking for one or two coordinators of the event for early August 2017. The earlier we can locate a leader or co-leaders, the more time you have to observe how the 2016 event comes together.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

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

"Like" us on Facebook!

Search

PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

on Facebook,

or go to

www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's new Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults.)

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Disaster Preparedness: Evacuation Planning

In Last Month's Banner we encouraged everyone to do one thing annually to prepare

your congregation for a disaster. We'll be spotlighting one easy thing that can be done each month to enhance your congregational disaster preparedness. Today we'll spotlight **emergency evacuation planning.**

As unlikely as it may seem, fires, tornadoes, and other disasters can occur during worship services or when the church office is open. Contact your local fire department or office of emergency management to have them assist you in preparing evacuation plans or plans to shelter in place depending on the situation. Once those plans are established make sure to set times for drills. A disaster plan is no good if people are unaware of how those plans are executed.

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

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Solar Under the Sun's Solar School Registration is Open

If you have been thinking about attending Solar Under the Sun's Solar School, registration is open! The dates for our upcoming sessions are May 19-22, 2016 and September 22-25, 2016. There are two courses available, and a project team will require at least one graduate from each course. [Click here](#) to register or for more information about the courses.

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Message from Rev. Rebecca Spooner -- "Kindling the Flame" Event

Greetings to you all!

I am enjoyed working with you and/or your denominations over the years to promote a deeper emotional and spiritual health to those in ministry and lay leadership. I am writing to tell you of a wonderful event that will be happening in Conway on June 10th. Wellspring is teaming up with J. Michael Vinson to host "Kindling the Flame; An Self-Care Workshop for Seekers, Professional Care-Givers, Healers and Hope Givers.

Some of you may remember Jane Wolfe from her work with the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in

Arkansas. She is a fascinating individual and an intriguing speaker. We need you to help us get the word out. We have posted it on Facebook and will be sending e-mails to those on our e-mail lists. It would be a huge help if you could list our event in your publications, websites or event refer to specifically to those you feel would benefit.

The link to the event is: www.eventbrite.com/e/Kindling-the-Flame or you can simply go to Eventbrite and search for "Kindling the Flame." You can also find a link on the Wellspring Facebook page.

We are super excited about this event, and know that all your clergy and lay leaders, those in pastoral care would greatly benefit. Please let me know if you need additional information. I pray God's richest blessings on your life and ministry.

In Christ's peace,
Rebecca

Rev. Rebecca Spooner LPC, NCC
Wellspring Renewal Center
101 N. Woodrow
Little Rock, AR 72205
www.wellspringrenewalcenter.com
501-265-0046

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Cotham Lecture Series at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church (Little Rock) Feature Author Diana Butler Bass -- May 22-23

This year's Cotham Lecturer (held at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock) is Diana Butler Bates. Ms. Bates is a leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture. In her most recent book, [Grounded: Finding God in the World](#), she takes the position that what appears to be a decline in religious practice actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God.

For more information about Ms. Bates and the schedule of events for the lectures, [click here](#).

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**Hot Springs Village--Kirk in the Pines Invites
Friends to Holy Land Trip--March 2017**

Rev. Bill Bailey, pastor of Kirk in the Pines (Hot Springs Village) shares this message with all friends of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

Dear friends,

We are inviting Christian friends to journey with members of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines to the Holy Land March 20-29, 2017. We hope you will share this invitation with your congregation as there may be members interested in joining us on this wonderful pilgrimage to Israel - the Land of the Bible.

This will be my fifth trip and I would go back every year if I could. March is a wonderful time of the year to travel in Israel. Beautiful wild flowers abound in the fields, and the rainy season is over. We will have professional guides to lead us, and old and new friends to share our reflections. This will be a trip remembered for years to come.

Some of the places we'll visit include Caesarea, Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and out of the way places like Sepphoris, Beth Shean and Herodium. We will walk on some of the same ground Jesus walked and visit places where he taught.

This pilgrimage will bring to life names and events we have heard about all our lives. For those who have never been to the Holy Land, this is will be a truly inspiring and educational journey! And, even if you've visited Israel previously, each trip brings revitalizing discoveries.

We always enjoy making new friends as we travel together. Although seating is limited, some space will be available on a first-come basis. A brochure with the full itinerary and all the details is attached. Feel free to forward this information to friends and family as they are also welcome.

If you would like printed brochures to share, or have questions, contact us at (501) 922-1333 or email kirktour@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Bill Bailey,
Pastor,
Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines
275 Asturias Drive
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

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News from Vera Lloyd--Pink Hat Day and After Hours with Vera Lloyd

Vera Lloyd recognizes volunteers at Pink Hat Day

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services hosted almost 100 guests at the 15th annual Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day at our children's home in Monticello on Saturday, April 30.

During the special luncheon, volunteers were honored for their service. Honorees were:

Doris Simmons of Hot Springs Village, Servant's Heart Award for Outstanding Service by an individual.

Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Traveling Pink Hat Award for Outstanding Service by a church.

Kiwanis Club of Monticello, Outstanding Organization for its service in updating the girls' rooms in one of the homes at the Annie B. Wells campus in Monticello.

Lacey Jacks of Monticello, Outstanding Mentor with the agency's MENT program.

Lunch was provided by Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village and Chick-Fil-A of Little Rock.

Guests who brought embellished pink hats participated in a Pink Hat Day Parade and friendly competition. Mary Chrisman of Little Rock won a necklace and earrings from Memorie and Co. for the best pink hat.

Doris Simmons (left) receives the Servant's Heart Award

Members of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church receive Traveling Pink Hat Award for Outstanding Service by a church

Mary Chrisman accepts the award for "best pink hat"

Other guests won prizes from The Full Moon in Little Rock, Sissy's Log Cabin, Tree-O in Monticello and All Occasions Florist in Monticello.

Vera Lloyd invites supporters to After Hours with Vera Lloyd

You are invited to After Hours with Vera Lloyd on Monday, June 6, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Inn at Carnall Hall in Fayetteville.

Tickets are \$25 and include music by the Claudie Burson Trio, wine by Glazer's and hors d'oeuvres. During the reception, you will learn more about how you can change the lives of children and youth in need from northwest Arkansas and all over the state. Each year, close to 200 boys and girls, ages six to 21, who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, abandonment, neglect and adjudication come to Vera Lloyd's children's home in Monticello for a safe and nurturing place to heal.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 501-666-8195, at www.veralloyd.org, on Eventbrite.com or from members of the host committee.

A special thanks to host committee members Charles and Anne Allen, Ted and Leslie Belden, Revs. Phil and Tasha Blackburn, First Presbyterian Church Outreach Committee in Springdale, Leigh Woodruff Harvey, Sabra Martin, Renee Nestor, Cathy and Chris Rogers, Ann Smith, Laura and Stewart Smith, Maryann Sweeney and Alan and Carol Sue Wooten.

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New Names for Presbytery Groups

With the election of committee members at the Feb. presbytery meeting, the former committees were dissolved, with thanks to those members who rotated off, and the new committees, ministry areas and subcommittees were constituted. As we learned together a few years ago that Ministers of Word and Sacrament are now called teaching elders and elders on the Session are now called ruling elders, we will begin to learn together the new names of presbytery groups.

They are:

Administration Ministry Area, formerly Committee on Administration, moderator TE Catherine Allsbury, HR

Committee on Leadership Development, formerly Committee on Preparation for Ministry, moderator TE Kade Curry

Committee on the Church's Ministries, formerly Committee on Ministry, moderator TE Dari Rowen

Church and Its Mission Area, formerly Committee on Christian Education and Committee on Mission, moderator CRE Kelly Pearson

Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness, formerly Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, co-moderators RE Elizabeth Branch and TE Susan Carter Wiggins

Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults, moderator RE Mary Shaw

Youth Ministry Team Sub-Committee, formerly Youth Advisory Team subcommittee of Christian Education Committee, moderator RE Kim Brooks

Campus Ministry Sub-Committee

Future of the Church Ministry Area, formerly Committee on Congregational Care and Development, moderator RE Leah Shell

Committee on Representation, unchanged, moderator RE Ledridge Davis

Permanent Judicial Commission, unchanged

Nominating Committee, formerly Committee on Nominations, moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard

Coordinating Team, formerly General Committee, moderator RE Ed Wilkinson

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Nominations Sought for Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees

Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees beginning in 2017. To download the current form, [click here](#). Please submit by May 1.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2016 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 [STEWART SMITH](#)

Stated Clerk [ROBERT LOWRY](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk VACANT

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 [BOB BOEHMLER](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [LACY SELLARS](#)
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [ED WILKINSON](#)
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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.

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