



July 2016

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

In this issue:

(Click on the link below to jump directly to an article, or scroll/page down to read the entire Banner from beginning to end)

[Stewart Smith: Reflections from General Assembly
Church Employment \(and Other\) Opportunities in our Presbytery](#)

[Immediate Mission Trip to McGehee, Arkansas](#)

[News of Our Congregations and Our People](#)

[NiAnn Thompson: Resource Center News](#)

["Spiritually Healthy Transformation" by Michael Vinson](#)

[Last Call for The P.L.A.C.E.!](#)

[News for Presbytery Youth](#)

[Opportunity to Serve in Honduras \(Oct 2016\) -- Applications Due July 15th](#)

[Vera Lloyd Says "Thank You!"](#)

[Hot Springs Village--Kirk in the Pines Invites Friends to Holy Land Trip--March 2017](#)

[Wellspring Renewal Center Sponsors Clergy Support Groups This Fall](#)

[Presbyterian Prayer List](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

Reflections from General Assembly

By Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

Last month, I attended my first General Assembly meeting in this role as General Presbyter of

the Presbytery of Arkansas. My only other experience at a General Assembly was in 2004 when I represented this presbytery as a commissioner at the 216th General Assembly in Richmond, VA. My impressions after this meeting are similar to the ones I had 12 years ago.

It is truly a great experience to be gathered with over 1,000 Presbyterians from across the country and the world. I wish that more people could have the opportunity to experience this and perhaps more from Arkansas can with the next General Assembly meeting in 2018 because it will be held very close to us in St. Louis. There were many people there just to observe the meeting during the week. I will try to communicate details about observer status as we get closer to the next meeting in 2018. The worship services are uplifting and inspirational. I especially enjoyed the various styles of music which were incorporated into the services. Each General Assembly meeting is a visible display of the connectional church we love. It was a joy to reconnect with seminary classmates, colleagues that are now serving in other presbyteries, and friends from our neighboring presbyteries in the Synod of the Sun. Among the former Presbytery of Arkansas members I saw during the week were: Chip Andrus, Nancy Benson-Nicol, Richard Brownlee, Julie Cox, Jeff Cranton, Tracy Evans, and Tom and Cathy Ulrich.



I want to commend and thank our commissioners for their dedication and commitment to their tasks for the week. Those of you that have been can attest to a grueling schedule for the week. Leslie Roper, Elizabeth Gabbard, Gail Murdoch, Jesse Rancifer and Sam Anderson represented us very well. They endured some long days and were always cheerful and enthusiastic about their opportunity to serve. They will look forward to sharing their experiences at an upcoming Presbytery meeting. Also Chris and Ruthie McRae of Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith were there to staff the display booth and share information about Solar Under the Sun. Katherine Norwood of Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock was there to work as a Theological Student Assistant. Katherine is an inquirer under care of our presbytery and completed her first year at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in May. Susie Wiggins of First Presbyterian, Pine Bluff was there serving as a corresponding member to the Office of the General Assembly and a resource person for the committees and commissioners from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns. Our Stated Clerk, Robert Lowry was there and served as a resource on the Committee on Mid-Councils and as one who has attended many General Assembly meetings, was a helpful resource to all of us from Arkansas. Whether in the display area or in committee meetings or on the floor of the General Assembly meeting, the Presbytery of Arkansas was well represented at the General Assembly

meeting and you can be proud of all of them.

A summary of the highlights of the meeting can be found by clicking on the following link which is provided by the [Presbyterian Outlook](#).



Presbytery of Arkansas General Assembly Representatives (left to right): RE Gail Murdoch, TE and Stated Clerk Robert Lowry, TE Leslie Roper, Young Adult Advisory Delegate Sam Anderson, RE Jesse Rancifer (seated), TE Elizabeth Gabbard, TE and General Presbyter Stewart Smith

I left Portland feeling renewed and very encouraged about the future of our beloved church. I look forward with anticipation to the 223rd meeting of the General Assembly in St. Louis, and hopefully many of you can make the short drive and experience the joy of a General Assembly meeting for yourselves!!

Enjoy these remaining weeks of summer and please know that I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to be partnered with each of you in ministry!!

Stewart

General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments:

July	7-8	Post GA Discussion -- Synod of the Sun Presbytery Leadership, Dallas, TX
	10	Worship -- FPC Pine Bluff
	12	Committee on Church's Ministry meeting -- Conway
	14	Committee on Church and Its Mission meeting
	26	Presbytery Disaster Response Sub-committee
	28-29	Vacation/Family Commitments
August	3-5	Vacation/Family Commitments
	6	The P.L.A.C.E. -- Second Presbyterian Little Rock

- 7 Administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper--Presbyterian Village, Little Rock
- 11 Future of the Church meeting -- Conway
- 14 Preach -- FPC Yellville

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery

Pastor -- Huntsville First Presbyterian Church --First Presbyterian Church (Huntsville) seeks a half-time pastor to help lead their congregation. Full details are available through the CLC portal through www.pcusa.org. Inquiries can be directed via email to Jason Holt at jholtmd@gmail.com. The website for the church is: <http://fphar.church>.

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](#).

Director of Music -- Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines in Hot Springs Village seeks a talented musician to serve as part-time Director of Music. Duties include traditional Sunday worship services, special services and if available, memorial and other services. The Director of Music will lead weekly choral rehearsals and work with the organist and pastor. Salary negotiable. Applications accepted now through July 15. Send resumes to Kirk in the Pines at kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net.

Director of Music Ministries -- First Presbyterian Church (Benton) -- First Presbyterian Church in Benton is seeking a Director of Music Ministries to lead weekly choir rehearsals and to play organ or piano for services. For more details and a full job description, [click here](#), or contact the church at 501-315-7737 or fpcos@sbcglobal.net.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

IMMEDIATE PRESBYTERY-WIDE MISSION TRIP TO MCGEHEE, AR.

Who: Anyone (age 18 and older) is invited to go on this annual trip usually scheduled in the fall.

When: We will leave on Monday, Aug. 8 and return on Friday, Aug. 12.

What: All the work will be indoors: replacing insulation, wall covering, sheet rock, flooring and painting inside houses affected by floods.

Where: We will be working in McGehee, in southeast AR.

Why: We want to help rebuild and restore hope to the people of this area.

Cost: \$50/week. Check with the leader if you can only help a day or two. We will be housed in a home in McGehee with showers, toilets and full cooking facilities.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Thursday, August 4

Other ways to help: Share brochure immediately with others who may be interested, Lowe's gift cards for building supplies and pray for workers and those they are assisting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Certified Christian Educator **Susie Wright**, Hot Springs, (501.620.3335). For a flyer with more information, [click here](#).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to Julia Henry Granger and family on the death of **Rev. Edsel "Ed" Granger** of Knoxville, 96, on June 29, 2016 in Russellville. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A native of Saginaw, Michigan, "Ed" was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II, graduated from Alma College in Alma, Michigan, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1956. He served churches in Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri, moderated three presbyteries, retired in 1984 and moved to AR the next year. Here he served in interim positions at Arkansas College (now Lyon); First Presbyterian Churches in Clarksville, Morrilton, Batesville and Conway as well as churches in TX, ID and OK. He was predeceased by his first wife Mary Ellen and is survived by his wife Julia, ten children, 15 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at

Central Presbyterian, Russellville on July 1. Memorials may be made to Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services or Central, Russellville.

--Christian sympathy is extended to the family of **Mrs. Dale Hicks**, widow of Rev. Basil Hicks, who died on June 18 in Little Rock. Mrs. Hicks was active in the churches her husband served including Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock, and was a volunteer Christian Educator and a long-time member of the Resource Center Advisory Board of the presbytery. At the time of her death she was a resident of Presbyterian Village in LR, and her memorial service was at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock on June 23.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Marci and Billy Ward** of Clarksville and family on the death of her father Lemoin Jackson of Norman, AR on June 10. His service was held at Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman. Marci is an at-large minister member of the presbytery.

--**Rev. Gordon Garlington** has announced his retirement after 44 years in ministry. Following worship his last Sunday, July 24, there will be a reception in fellowship hall at Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock in his honor from 12:30 to 2:00. Friends in the Presbytery are invited to come and join in celebration of this event.

--**Shannon McGill** is the new administrative assistant at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Joseph and Barb Tropansky** of Bella Vista on the death of their son David on June 13. Joe is honorably retired and a member of the presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission and Barb is active in Presbyterian Women.

--Congratulations to William Freeman who graduated from Trinity University, San Antonio this spring with a degree in Studio Art. His parents are **Revs. Debbie and Jim Freeman**; Debbie is interim pastor at First, Jacksonville and Jim is pastor at Broadmoor Presbyterian, Shreveport, LA.

--Congratulations to ruling elder **Healey Ikerd** of First, Bentonville who received a certificate of ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary recently.

--**Rev. Robert Lowry** has completed his work as interim pastor at First and at Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville. Robert serves as stated clerk of the presbytery.

--**Donna Toney** is the new church organist at Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village. Donna is a Kirk member.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Stacy and Rev. Dick Shinkle**, honorably retired, of Harrison on the death of Stacy's mother Marie Holder on June 19. Dick is a member of presbytery's Committee on Church and Its Ministries.

News of Our Congregations

--**First United, Fayetteville** began a combined summer adult education class on June 12.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** men's fellowship sponsored a blood drive on June 13, and congregation is accepting hymn suggestions to be used throughout the summer.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** conducts worship at 9 and 10 a.m. from July 3 through August 21.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** church picnic was held on June 12 at Village Creek State Park.

--**First, Van Buren** hosts "Theology on Tap" on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings for "folks of all faiths and denominations and no faith" to meet and discuss off-site the issues and topics of the today from a Christian perspective.

--**First, Conway** church mission trips are set from August 25-September 19 to serve children and widows from a slum in Kitale, Kenya and a mini-mission trip for church's children entering grades 4-7 is set for August 2-4.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** members are preparing from July 13-Nov. 3 for their fall bazaar of paintings, art and baked goods.

--**First, Springdale** will celebrate "Christmas in July" on July 24 by wearing Christmas sweaters, eating Christmas cookies, singing carols and hearing the message of Christ's birth. They also collect back-to-school supplies and personal hygiene items for Vera Lloyd Home students.

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** will offer to members of the church and the community art classes on preparing a batik design from July 28 through August 18.

--**First, Benton** offers Lectio Divina Bible Study from 7 to 7:30 a.m. on Monday mornings.

--**First, Yellville** invites their members to sing or play instruments in worship while the choir is on summer break.

--**First, Dardanelle** will open their food pantry to the public every third Wednesday to distribute commodities.

--**First, Rogers** has an outreach ministry in which ushers hand out labeled bags as members leave church on the last Sunday of the month to be returned filled the next Sunday with items local charities use.

--Please hold the date for the **PW Cluster V Gathering** to be held Saturday September 10 at Allison Presbyterian Church in Little Rock to include the Little Rock, North Little Rock, Jacksonville, Pine Bluff, Brinkley, Helena, West Helena, Holly Grove, Lonoke, Marianna, McGehee and Stuttgart churches. (The PW clusters have been redefined and do not follow the same lines as the Presbytery.)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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.

Three copies of the **2016-2017 PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS** are still available at the discounted price of \$14 per copy. Start July with a fresh calendar!

Three days after the adjournment on June 25 of the **222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA)** in Portland, bulletin inserts from "The Presbyterian Outlook" summarizing actions taken were sent to every congregation in the presbytery for reproduction and distribution. This is a service of YOUR Resource Center. General Presbyter Stewart Smith also sent out mid-week a letter from leaders of the denomination with official greetings and comments after the meeting. (See link on "Reflections from General Assembly" article above.)

One of the major actions of the 2016 G.A. was adopting **the Belhar Confession** into the Book of Confessions, part 1 of the constitution of the PC(USA). Studying this, the first confession from the

global south, which was penned in the heart of South Africa's struggle against apartheid, would be appropriate this summer and certainly when new ruling elders and deacons are elected and trained in local congregations. One tool for such a study is the "**Being Reformed**" six-session study of "The Confession of Belhar" by Cynthia Holder Rich and the original study from the 2010 G.A. including information and introduction to the confession, a study guide, and an article on "Confessions of Faith in the Reformed Tradition." YOUR Resource Center has multiples of the latter study.

In the deep summer it is a challenge to predict Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or small group attendance, especially for younger children. Maybe these DVDs can help you be ready. The following are recommended for ages 3-8, feature 3-D computer animation with illustrations and live-action puppets, are approximately 23 minutes long, grouped around a theme and are part of "**The Bedbug Bible Gang**" series:

"**Bible Builders**" (building theme: Tower of Babel, House on the Rock, and the Man through the Roof) Acc. #DVD9861. "**Big Boats of the Bible!**" (high seas theme: Noah and the Ark, Jonah, and Jesus Calms the Sea) Acc. #DVD9862. "**Nifty New Testament Stories**" (70 minutes, three full-length episodes on 1 DVD, on three themes of Bundle of Bucks (greedy farmer, rich guy and needle eye, ten talents), Peter (Peter's problem, feed my sheep, Tabitha), and That's God (Centurion sees, road to Emmaus, doubting Thomas) Acc. #DVD9863. "**Just John**" (Zechariah's Surprise, Weird John, and Jesus takes a bath) Acc. #DVD9864.

Or look into the award-winning animated series "**The Adventures of Carlos Caterpillar**" in English and Spanish which concentrates on life lessons in 25-minute DVDs for grade school children. The newest one is "**Batter Chatter: A lesson on the dangers of assuming the worst and gossip**" (Acc. #DVD9865). Check out "**No Prize Surprise: A lesson in thankfulness and appreciation**" (Acc. #DVD9754) or "**Cheater Critters: A lesson on honest work habits**" (Acc. #DVD9585)

Beginning August 8 I will be in the Resource Center and presbytery office on Mondays and Wednesdays and available other weekdays by cell phone (501.337.2360) or email (niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

Current 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)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Spiritually Healthy Transformation

Rev. Michael Vinson, Staff Resource
Congregational Vitality

The 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has completed its work and in a brief letter from The Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly; The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa, Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency, we learned that much spiritual discernment was a part of the many decisions made at the

GA. To participate in spiritual discernment individuals and organizations must have spiritual practices that support spiritual health.

Have you ever considered the notion that there are actually things you can do to have a healthy Spirit? A healthy Spirit is what is necessary if we are to continue to discern God's will for us as a Denomination, Presbytery and a local congregation. A spiritually healthy person or organization is safe, nurturing and empowered to do the work it is called to do. The world is hungry for safety, it needs the nurture of God's Spirit and it needs to be spiritually empowered.

If you listen to those outside the church, these are the things the world is craving: safety, nurture and right power. These are the signs of a healthy spirit that is flexible and free to support the spiritual health of individuals and organizations.

On an individual basis, our Spirit needs certain things in order to be healthy just like our body needs certain things to be healthy. Our bodies need to take in air, water and food. Our Spirits need to take in peace, joy and love. These are the things we need to connect to, to incarnate every day if we are to be spiritually healthy.

There are also spiritual outputs that must be practiced every day. These outputs are justice, kindness, humility. Again, these are things we do daily in large and small ways in order to be spiritually healthy.

A person or organization that takes in peace, joy and love and lives justly, kindly and humbly is safe, nurtured and empowered. If you and your congregation are safe, nurtured and spiritually empowered, can you imagine what a difference it would make in your life personally and as a congregation?

These are easy disciplines that can be practiced daily and can greatly improve the spiritual health of individuals and congregations. Spiritually healthy people and congregations are in the process of transforming and are thus able to guide others in the transformative work of the Spirit in our lives and congregations.

This transformative work will require you to re-think many things. Some of them you hold near and dear. But if long-held beliefs keep you from being safe, nurtured and spiritually empowered, you may have to put them aside for a while. This transformative work will take a commitment on your part. So, make that commitment easy. Don't try to do more than you know you can do regularly.

Spiritual transformation is something we work on everyday. Daily discipline will turn into spiritually healthy people and organizations that are faithful and obedient in discerning next steps in ministry individually and collectively.

If you are interested in becoming more spiritually healthy, if you are interested in a Spirit that is safe, nurtured and empowered, let me hear from you. Individually and collectively, we are at an exciting time and need to be in good Spiritual shape. Drop me an email or give me a call if you or your church would like to know more about being spiritually safe, nurtured and empowered.

Michael Vinson
Presbytery of Arkansas
mvinson17@gmail.com
<http://jmmichaelvinson.com/>

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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:

- Radical Hospitality: Luke 14 and the Church's Mission, leader: Rev. Bobby Williamson
- 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
- Top 10 Things Not to Say When Visiting
- End of Life: Life's Last Great Challenge
- Belhar Confession
- Spirituality Center: How to create one in your church. Second Presbyterian will have a Spirituality center set up for us to experience that day.
- Creative Worship
- Suicide Prevention

For a schedule of the day's events, [click here](#).

For a description of the workshops and information on the presenters, [click here](#).

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

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.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AT THIS LINK: <http://goo.gl/forms/eJjQN72dH6so0n3C2>

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-Ferncliff 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.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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.)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Opportunity to Serve in Honduras--Applications Due July 15th

Applications for October 24-29 Trip Due **July 15!!!**

Our Presbytery's next work-trip to Honduras is scheduled for Sunday, October 24, through Saturday, October 29. We will be working alongside our Honduran brothers and sisters building homes near Copan. For this trip we will spend one night at the home in Trinidad de Copan where our groups have stayed for most of their visits in the past, and visit with representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras and the Mayor of the region of Trinidad. Then we will travel to Copan for the work part of our trip, staying in a hotel. Our last day will be spent visiting the Mayan ruins and playing the role of tourist. There will be no overnight stay in San Pedro Sula. We will be escorted in a van for all of our travels and will only be staying in safe communities.

We will fly out of Little Rock on Sunday morning at 6:30 am and return to Little Rock on Saturday at 8:32 pm. The cost of the trip is expected to be \$1,500 for those 18 and older and \$1,400 for those under 18. We will need to know how many are going by July 15, 2016. For an application for and/or the booklet with more information, or if you have any questions please contact Leslie Belden at 479.466.1061 or lesliebeld@aol.com or Lindy Vogado at 501.227.0000 or lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org.



[Back to the top of this email](#)

Vera Lloyd Thanks You for Changing Lives!

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is deeply grateful to Presbyterian churches and their members who have enriched the lives of boys and girls who are living at Vera Lloyd's children's home this summer.

Ferncliff Camp

First Presbyterian, Fort Smith; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Westover Hills, Little Rock; Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock and Doris Simmons gave gifts to allow 16 youth, ages 10 to 17, to attend camp at Ferncliff from June 20 to June 24. Vera Lloyd boys won the Golden Broom Award at Ferncliff for having the cleanest cabin. House parents Clare and Deverick Franklin chaperoned and helped

camp counselors with the group.

The youth took part in camp activities, including:

- * Completing a low ropes course
- * Fishing and boating
- * Hammocking
- * Participating in a nature study
- * Harvesting vegetables in the garden
- * Spending time at the pool, pond and creek
- * Learning archery and bouldering
- * Playing field games
- * Writing and performing for skit night
- * Attending Vespers Services each evening

School Supplies

Vera Lloyd's 42 youth will begin school on August 15th. School supplies are needed for these youth to have a great start to their school year. Several churches have already volunteered to host school supply drives, including First Presbyterian, Morrilton; Westover Hills, Little Rock; Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock; Presbyterian Women's Circle, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; and Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock. Please consider helping our boys and girls get the supplies they need for school. We will be collecting school supplies until August 8th. Contact Melissa Hendricks, Development Director, at 501-666-1895 or melissahendricks@veralloyd.org for more information, or if you would like to sign up to help collect school supplies. Below is a list of supplies needed for our boys and girls at Vera Lloyd.

Supplies needed by Monday, August 8:

- * Walmart gift cards for items like scientific calculators, clothes, shoes, etc.
- * Pens and #2 pencils and highlighters
- * Staples and staplers
- * Kleenex
- * Poster board
- * Art supplies, including colored pencils, crayons, markers, glitter, paint, stickers, cardstock colored paper and construction paper
- * Composition notebooks, no wire bound spiral notebooks
- * 3 ring binders-1/2 inch and 1 inch
- * Hand-held or electric pencil sharpeners
- * Small pencil/supply boxes or zippered pouch type that fits in binders
- * Thumb drives
- * Fabric backpacks, unisex, no rollers
- * Germ-X
- * Full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash and deodorant
- * Socks

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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 available [by clicking here](#). 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

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Wellspring Renewal Center Sponsors Fall Clergy Support Groups

Wellspring has scheduled its fall Clergy Support Groups. The groups meet monthly on Friday from 2-4 p.m., are confidential, and can be filed on your insurance. You are also welcome to use your free sessions that are provided through the Presbytery for group. Groups are facilitated by Rev. Rebecca

Spooner, a teaching elder in this Presbytery and a licensed psychotherapist. This group is a safe place to vent, increase coping and help manage stress.

To sign up, simply call Wellspring Renewal Center at 501-265-0046 or e-mail Rev. Rebecca Spooner. The tentative group dates for the fall are 8/19, 9/23, 10/21, 11/18 and 12/9. We will formalize the dates for future groups at our first session in August. For more information about Wellspring Renewal Center check out our website: www.WellspringRenewalCenter.com

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)

Stated Clerk [ROBERT LOWRY](#)

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](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)



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>

Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227