



January 2017

## The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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**An Outward-Looking Focus**

by Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

On December 30, I crossed the Mississippi River just before 5:00 on a warm winter afternoon. My wife, younger son and I were coming back from Lexington, KY where we had visited our older son and daughter-in-law. We were planning to pick up supper as we entered Little Rock and spend a casual evening watching football games and getting settled after being away for few days. Just as we passed the last exit to Forrest City, traffic came to a screeching halt. We were not sure what had caused the traffic stop, but we assumed there had been an accident. We thought we would be delayed for a few minutes until traffic got around the accident but the few minutes turned into 229 minutes (that's 3 hours and 49 minutes)!!



There had been an accident involving a trailer that was carrying several vehicles that ran into another truck. In the chain reaction several others vehicles were involved. We were about 5 miles behind the accident site and it took awhile before the enormity of the situation became apparent. Helicopters were airlifting some of the victims away from the accident. Google maps was giving us a very strange time of arrival in Little Rock. People began sharing information learned through the Waze traffic app.

My emotions went from disappointment at being delayed, to being frustrated that we didn't know what was going on, to being angry that after an hour traffic hadn't moved an inch. I thought, "surely traffic could go by on the shoulder one car at a time". As we began to learn information from the traffic app, I noticed my focus beginning to change. I had been very inwardly-focused on myself and how I was being delayed by the accident. But as the gravity of the situation became apparent, I began to have a more outward-looking focus. I thought about and prayed with compassion for those involved in the accident. I began to think about and pray for the emergency personnel, with very difficult work to do. I began to count my blessings. Had it not been for a stop at the Bass Pro Shop at the Pyramid, we could have been in that accident. I remembered hearing stories of people on that road stuck in an ice storm. This day the air was warm -- we weren't having to turn the engine on to get warm. We had snacks and water in the car. The delay gave time for good conversation for me with my wife and son, time we wouldn't have taken advantage of had we been at home.

That inward-looking focus is natural to us as human beings. Just as we tend to have that focus as individuals, we tend to have that focus in our congregations. As the landscape of our demographics and of Christendom continues to change, it seems to

me that our congregations need to be able to take on more of an outward-looking focus. As we wrestle with declining resources, can we be strong enough to look beyond our walls and ask "how can we make a difference in our community?" Can we ask, "how can we communicate the life changing, life empowering news of Jesus Christ in our community?"

We are facing difficult challenges in many of our congregations. People are moving away from many of our rural communities. Faithful church members that have been key supporters of the annual budget with their giving have died. It is difficult to find part-time pastoral leadership. All of these cause frustration when we look inwardly at these situations. Perhaps we would be wise to look outwardly -- and think of how we can reach out into our communities and share the good news of the gospel. Perhaps our stronger congregations could begin thinking of how they could help some of our congregations that are struggling. Perhaps if we know our congregation is dying, we can think of how to most faithfully close down, making the most of our resources for continued ministry in the future.

Many of you may have read the book ***Canoeing the Mountains*** by Tod Bolsinger. Bolsinger, in talking about his book says that most pastors were trained for preaching and liturgics, pastoral care and providing programs; programs that assumed people would be there to participate. Bolsinger says that now the culture has changed to where we cannot assume people will show up, and pastors need to be able to adapt to new types of leadership skills. He raises the question, "how can congregations change and look beyond ourselves and become something different than we expected to be?" I wish I had the answers on how to do this. But the challenge is there for us to face together.

I continue to be thankful for your prayers and your participation as we strive to make Christ visible in the congregations and communities and world we live in and serve. And I continue to be thankful to be a partner in ministry with each of you as we faithfully navigate this difficult and changing landscape and do this important work together in this beautiful part of God's creation. I'll look forward to seeing you in Clarksville at the 134th Stated Meeting on February 17 and 18th.

*Stewart*

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## **Thanks to Outgoing Members, Leaders**

'Tis the season to thank those who worked as leaders and members of presbytery

committees and ministry areas in 2016. Last year was a year of transition, and all of these Presbyterians did their part.

Thanks to:

Ruling Elder Ed Wilkinson, Good Shepherd, Greenwood, moderator of Coordinating Team  
Teaching Elder Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs, moderator of presbytery

TE Catherine Allsbury, honorably retired, Second, Little Rock, moderator of Committee on Administration (continues on committee in 2017)

Mary Shaw, First, Springdale, moderator of Committee on Ministries with Youth, Collegiate and Young Adults

RE Elizabeth Branch, co-moderator of Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee

Sarah Keith-Bolden, Little Rock, Counselor-at-law

Members:

TE Leslie Roper, First, Batesville, Committee on Ministries with Youth, Collegiate and Young Adults

REs Carolyn Buchanan and Max McElmurry, First, Batesville; TE Georgia Senor, First, Bentonville, Committee on Church and Its Ministries

RE Laura Pierce, Central, Pine Bluff, and RE Emily Laurel, First, Benton, Coordinating Team

RE Zac Cosner, Central, Pine Bluff, Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee

RE Bruce Schlegel, First United, Fayetteville, Committee on Representation

TE Heinrich Eiler, honorably retired, Hot Springs Village; TE Susan Gray, Vaughn,

Bentonville; RE Karen Young-Vinson, First, Conway, Readers of Candidates' Theological Exams

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## **Presbytery to Gather at University of the Ozarks Feb. 17-18, 2017**

The 134th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas is set for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17-18, 2017 at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR. Highlights of the meeting will include installations of presbytery moderator Elder Ruth Hamilton and vice-moderator Rev. Leslie Roper; approval of the 2017 budget; welcome of teaching elders new to the presbytery; presence of "Youth at Presbytery" advisory delegates; worship with communion in refurbished Munger Chapel on campus; voting on the remaining two constitutional amendments (16-G. Access to the Lord's Table and 16-H. Revised Directory for Worship [[click here for a description of all proposed amendments](#)]); annual "State of the Presbytery" report from General Presbyter Stewart Smith and more.

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## Stated Clerk Resignation

Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry submitted his letter of resignation to Presbytery Moderator Rev. Lacy Sellars on January 8, 2017. Earlier in that day, the congregation of Fondren Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS called Robert to be their pastor and he accepted the call. Robert has faithfully served the presbytery as Stated Clerk since his election by the presbytery in June of 2015.

The Coordinating Team of the presbytery met on Friday, January 13 at 10:00 am and accepted with regret and gratitude the resignation; elected Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden, Parish Associate at First United Presbyterian in Fayetteville to be Temporary Stated Clerk; and requested the presbytery's Nominations Committee to present a slate of names to serve as a Stated Clerk Search Committee which will be elected at the 134th meeting of the presbytery in February. The hope is that the search committee will present a name for election at the next stated presbytery meeting in June.

The effective date of the Temporary Stated Clerk's service will be at the conclusion of the 134th meeting of presbytery, but Leslie will begin orientation and preparation for the position immediately.

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## Preliminary Budget Available for Download

The 2017 Preliminary Budget for the Presbytery of Arkansas can be downloaded [here](#). This is the budget that will be presented for approval at the February presbytery meeting.

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## Church Employment (and Other) 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](http://www.pcusa.org). Inquiries can be directed via email to Jason Holt at [jholtmd@gmail.com](mailto:jholtmd@gmail.com). The website for the church is:

<http://fphar.church>.

**Pastor -- First Presbyterian Church--Newport** -- The First Presbyterian Church of Newport, AR, is searching for an energetic part-time minister to serve a small, loving and active congregation. Newport is a county-seat town in East Arkansas, and the members of the church are active in the life of the community. For more information, contact Marvin Hare, Jr. at [mbhare@hughes.net](mailto:mbhare@hughes.net) or 870-217-3661.

**First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, AR**, is seeking a **part-time Director of Music, Adult Choir Director, and/or Youth and Children's Choir Director**. Ideal applicants would have experience in choral direction and piano proficiency. Experience leading children and directing semi-annual children programs a plus. This individual would serve under the supervision of the church pastor and session. Responsibilities would include one weekday rehearsal with the adult and children's choirs and directing music for Sunday morning worship. Please send resumes and any additional documentation to [fpcsearcy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsearcy@gmail.com) or mail to First Presbyterian Church, Attn: Music Director Search Committee Chair, 400 West Arch Street, Searcy, AR, 72143. For more information about FPC Searcy, visit us online at <http://fpcsearcy.com> or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpcsearcy](http://www.facebook.com/fpcsearcy).

**First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, AR**, is also seeking a **part-time Pianist/Accompanist**. Responsibilities would include accompanying one weekday rehearsal with the adult and children's choirs and accompanying choral and congregational music for Sunday morning worship. This individual would serve under the supervision of the church pastor and session. Please send resumes and any additional documentation to [fpcsearcy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsearcy@gmail.com) or mail to First Presbyterian Church, Attn: Pianist/Accompanist Search Committee Chair, 400 West Arch Street, Searcy, AR, 72143. For more information about FPC Searcy, visit us online at <http://fpcsearcy.com> or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpcsearcy](http://www.facebook.com/fpcsearcy).

**First Presbyterian Church, Yellville** has 3 sets of adult choir stoles we no longer need.

Our hope is to gift them to a church choir who is in need of stoles but cannot afford to purchase them.

The stoles are reversible, shawl style (do NOT go over your head) and made of acetate satin. They are made by the Regency Cap & Gown Company, stole S-1, if you would like to go online and look at them.

We have:

- 1 set of 24 green/white reversible
- 1 set of 26 green/white reversible  
(these 2 sets can't be combined, the green is extremely different)
- 1 set of 25 purple/red reversible

Depending on the location of those requesting them, we could arrange for pick up at our church or we will be glad to mail/ship them. We do ask that the receiver pay the shipping cost.

If interested, please respond by February 28, 2017. You may call the church office (870.449.6242) Monday, Wednesday or Friday 10:00-2:00 or anytime at your convenience and leave a message with your name and contact information.

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## People and Church News

### News of Our People

--**Emilie Williams** is the Director of Youth Ministries at Central Presbyterian, Russellville and Liz Chrisman is artist-in-residence there.

--**Rev. Gary Jones, HR** of Hot Springs is a rehabilitation patient in Memphis, following a fall.

### News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--When **First, Prairie Grove** chose to cancel worship on Dec. 18 due to inclement weather, Pastor Becky Purcell sent out an email order of worship for home, complete with links to the hymns of the day.

--**Presbyterian Village** retirement center, Little Rock recently broke ground for a chapel and saluted residents who served in the military in foreign wars.

--**United Campus Ministry** at UofA, Fayetteville will welcome students back with hospitality events on Jan. 17.

--**First, Batesville** continued the Star Sunday Epiphany tradition on Jan. 8 when they chose "words for the new year" from a basket of paper star wishes.

--**First, Hot Springs** observes Birthday Sunday following worship each month with cake and gifts to the birthday fund for college scholarships for members.

--**Central Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** choirs combined on December 18 for a cantata and joint potluck at Central.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** reproduces any handwritten "thank you" notes they have received in their newsletter.

--**First, Dardanelle** hosts three AA and two AI-Anon meetings each month.

--**Wynne Presbyterian's** adults shared a breakfast potluck for Advent.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** planned a party for their college student members home for the holidays complete with white elephant exchange and "tackiest sweater". From Jan. 8-22 they offer a class for Epiphany on the visit of the Magi, Jesus' presentation at the temple and the family's flight to Egypt.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** will bless the food pantry on Jan. 15 and host a 5th Sunday Sing on Jan. 29.

--**First, Rogers'** newsletter lists welcomers, worship leaders, sound board workers, acolytes and chancel guild workers for communion.

--**Holiday Island Presbyterian** is encouraging camera buffs to take photos at church events for use on the church webpage and facebook page.

--**First, North Little Rock** suggested new year's resolutions including attending their sermon

series beginning Jan. 15 on "Meant for So Much More," focusing on how to "get the most out of the precious life we have been given."

--**First, Van Buren** plans their centennial celebration on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. with ministers from the community churches assisting in traditional worship, followed by a reception.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** has moved their choir rehearsal from Wednesday evening to immediately following worship on Sundays.

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### [Resource Center News](#)

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director  
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104  
Monday & 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](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas). Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email [revruss@gmail.com](mailto:revruss@gmail.com) will be glad to answer your questions.

### **BETWEEN NEW YEAR'S AND LENT**

This season of Ordinary Time between Epiphany on January 6 and Ash Wednesday, this year on March 1, affords an opportunity to look at new topics through refreshed eyes. Three holidays—Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 16, Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, and President's Day on Feb. 20—offer inspiration.

"**Race: the power of an illusion**" is a three-part DVD documentary hailed as "One of the most honest and compelling documentaries I've ever seen on race and its impact on this nation" (Philadelphia Inquirer). Episode titles are "The Difference Between Us," "The Story We Tell," and "The House We Live In" complete with a reproducible resource package.

Other resources of relevance on race relations are the print study "**Breaking Down the Walls: Responding to the Racism that Divides Us**" by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program; "**Facing Racism: In Search of the Beloved Community**," a study for youth, also produced by PPP; closer to home "**Women's Emergency Committee To Open Our Schools: The courageous story of the women of Little Rock during the integration crisis**" (Acc. #VC7542); and by comparison, the light-hearted "**And don't call me a racist! A treasury of quotes on the past, present, and future of the color line in America.**"

"**Getting the Love You Want: A Guide for Couples**" and **Workbook** (Acc. #BK9217) books and "**Keeping Love Alive: A Vision For A Growing Marriage**" kit (Acc. #6211) in eight sessions with worksheets. Children's books "**God's Love Is Like**" (Acc. #BK7472) multi-cultural stories relating five of Jesus' parables by Native American author Ray Buckley and best-selling "**I Love You the Purplest**" (Acc. #BK6553) illustrates unconditional parental love. 25-minute Video for children and youth on "**The First Valentine**" about the third century martyred saint (Acc. #VD7737)

Resources on living in political America include: "**God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It, a New Vision for Faith and Politics in America**" (Acc. #BK9242) book with companion "Guidebook for Putting Your Faith into Action;" "**The Four Chaplains: Sacrifice At Sea**,"

54-minute DVD tells inspiring true story of four World War II Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice so others could live (Acc. #DVD8625); **"The Gospel According to America: A meditation on a God-blessed, Christ-haunted Idea"** (Acc. #BK8620) book and **"In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us"** (Acc. #BK9725).

If you have resources you would like to return or resources you would like for me to bring to the presbytery meeting on Feb. 17-18, just email by Monday, Feb. 13 and we'll arrange a meeting in Clarksville.

Reminder: I am in the Resource Center on Monday and Wednesday and available by phone (cell 501.337.2360) or email other days.

(Your Resource Center receives funding from the presbytery's Mission of the Church ministry area.)

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## Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

**Mark your calendar for these 2017 youth events and trips, and watch for more information to come!**

Youth Advisory Team Winter Meeting (location tbd) -- Jan. 20-21, 2017

Youth at Presbytery (University of the Ozarks, 10th-12th graders) -- Feb. 17-18, 2017

Sr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff, 9th-12th graders) -- March 31-April 2, 2017

Jr. High Jubilee (Mo Ranch, 6th-8th graders) -- July 2-6, 2017

Sr. High Mission Trip with Memphis Youth Mission (Memphis, TN, 8th-12th graders) -  
- July 9-14, 2017

Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC, 8th-12th graders) -- July 23-29, 2017

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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](http://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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## **National Conferences Near Arkansas in 2017**

Two popular national conferences sponsored by the PC(USA) will be relatively near the Presbytery of Arkansas in March and July, so make plans now to attend! To help make that happen, Presbytery's Church and Its Mission Ministry Area is making available eight grants of \$50 each to members or staff of congregations within the bounds to help attend either, but not both, of these excellent conferences. Contact moderator Kelly Pearson at [ktpearson@suddenlink.net](mailto:ktpearson@suddenlink.net) for grant information and NiAnn Thompson at [niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org) for help with coordinating travel.

NEXT church renewal group's national gathering is set for Monday through Wednesday, March 13-15, at Marriott Downtown in Kansas City, MO. The theme is Wells & Walls: Well-Being in a Thirsty World based on John 4:1-42, the Samaritan woman at the well. Keynote speakers are Dr. Rodger Nishioka (who was enthusiastically received by this Presbytery in June, 2015 at Benton), Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah and Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante. On Monday and Tuesday, 45 workshops will be offered in rotation, as will a variety of 7-minute "Ignite" presentations, fellowship and worship. Details are at [nextchurch.net](http://nextchurch.net).

Big Tent 2017, the official training event of the denomination in years when General Assembly does not meet, will be on Thursday through Saturday, July 6-8, at Washington University, St. Louis, MO. With the motto "Be inspired...Become equipped...Get connected!" Big Tent offers worship, workshops and the opportunity to engage and connect with other Presbyterians. Save the date and watch for more information to be released soon.

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## **PC(USA) Ministry: Cataract Surgery in Honduras**

by Rev. Leslie Belden

The ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas in Honduras is in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, other presbyteries and congregations in the United States, and is assisted by wonderful volunteers and leaders in Honduras. One of our Honduran friends is the Mayor of Trinidad de Copan, Jesus Orlando Jiminez. Mayor Jiminez has given land on which we have worked side-by-side with members of the communities to build homes. His wife coordinates the scholarship program through which we provide scholarships for students to continue their education past the 6th grade for only \$100 per year for one student.

Mayor Jiminez has also been assisting with Providence Presbytery's efforts to minister in Jesus' name, restoring sight to the blind. He has worked with mission teams from that presbytery to build two rooms to their municipal clinic for an eye clinic and senior center. The eye clinic and senior center will provide care for older adults in need of cataract surgery and other needs.

Providence Presbytery encourages ophthalmologists to volunteer for their mission teams that go to Honduras 2-3 times per year to conduct cataract surgery to the neediest residents of northwestern Honduras. If you feel called to participate in this ministry please contact Barbara Kurz, Interim Mission Consultant, Providence Presbytery, in South Carolina at 803.328.6269, 800.922.1609, or [Barbara@providencepres.org](mailto:Barbara@providencepres.org).

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## **Heartland and Northern Kansas Offer Stewardship Conference Kansas City, MO -- March 3-4**

Heartland Presbytery and The Presbytery of Northern Kansas are co-sponsoring a 2-day Spirit of Stewardship Conference 2017. They will have two keynoters and many sessions on various topics of stewardship. The cost is \$75.

To register (and for more information) click this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Spirit-of-Stewardship> .For a flyer with information about location and Keynote Speakers, [click here](#).

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## Plan for Your Congregation's Safety

**Q: Do you know - to what location(s) you would evacuate worshipers in case of fire or an approaching tornado?**

**A: If you don't know, now's the time to decide.** For cases of fire, select a meeting point outside the building, one that's easy enough to go to and yet far enough away that falling debris and embers would be unlikely to reach the site.

For a potential tornado, select an interior room with sturdy walls and no windows.

For either situation, plan how to evacuate safely your less mobile members and your children. And stage a drill during worship!

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

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

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## It's That Time Again -- Clergy Salary Worksheets, Church Information Sheets, Background Checks, Statistical Reports

Once again, we need your help with Clergy Salary Worksheets and Church Information Sheets. Please fill out these forms and return to our office by May 1st, 2017. You may also simply email the information to Kenneth Rich at [kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org).

Link for the Clergy Salary Worksheet: [Click here](#)

Link for the Church Information Sheet: [Click here](#).

We are also due to renew the background checks for our ministers. Please submit the Sexual Misconduct Policy's "Acknowledgment of Receipt" ([click here](#)) and the "Background Check Form" ([click here](#)).

For the full "Child Protection and Sexual Misconduct Policy" document, ([click here](#)).

And, with year-end comes our Annual Statistical Reports. There are two documents on the presbytery's webpage (at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmPresbyteryDocuments.aspx>) to assist you in completing these reports. The two reports are at the top of the linked page. Their titles are "2016 Statistical Report Workbook" and "2016 Records Review Checklist."

THANK YOU for your help!!!

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## **New List of Churches by Region**

The 2016 new 4-Region list of churches can be found [here](#).

You can also find this file at the presbytery's website under "Resources | Presbytery Documents."

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## **Presbyterian Pilgrimage Invites You to April's Event**

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 April 28 through 30, 2017. 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 from our Scholarship and Endowment Fund. Also, if anyone is interested in contributing to the Scholarship and Endowment Fund, information is available at the website below.

Applications are available on the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage website [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://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](mailto:ARPC.registrar@gmail.com)

The deadline for applications is April 16, 2017.

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### **Video about Vera Lloyd available to show to your congregation**

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services announces the premiere of a short video that demonstrates the agency's mission of sharing healing love with children, families and youth in crisis.

The video details the journeys of a teenage girl currently living at Vera Lloyd's children's home in Monticello and Krystal, a former resident of Vera Lloyd. Both women survived abuse before they lived at Vera Lloyd.

As Krystal says in the video, "Everybody told me I couldn't until I got to Vera Lloyd. Once they gave me the opportunity to show that I could be more, I took it."

The video can be viewed at Vera Lloyd's web site, VeraLloyd.org or on YouTube by searching for Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services and clicking on the video titled, "Vera Lloyd makes a Difference."

"We are excited to share the story of how our supporters change lives of youth in need," Melissa Hendricks, Director of Development said. "Consider showing the video to your congregation or PW group to let your members know how their support to the Vera Lloyd ministry makes a difference."

### **Mark your calendar! Dates for Vera Lloyd activities in 2017**

3rd annual (and last) Arkansas Gives on-line giving day, Thursday, April 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Pink Hat and Donor Appreciation Day, Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Annie B. Wells Campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello, Arkansas

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m., Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun for kids, 9 a.m., Annie B. Wells Campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello, Arkansas

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### **PW Says Thank-You For Your Support**

Thank you to the Presbytery of Arkansas for the continued financial support to Presbyterian Women. Because of this support all monies given through PW go directly to designated missions.

PW Missions include:  
\$11,456.74 for support of PW and missions at Churchwide and Synod

\$9,118.61 to the Birthday Offering for specific mission projects  
\$7,910.80 for the Thank Offering for specific mission projects  
\$570 to Honorary Life Memberships for scholarships  
\$1,611.69 to Least Coin in support of women and families worldwide  
\$70 for Mother's Day Cards in support of women and children

Other Presbyterian Missions  
\$942 to Bentonville Food Pantry from the Spring Gathering offering  
\$215 to Vera Lloyd  
\$215 to Goodland Home  
\$15 to Evergreen Family homes  
\$15 to Presbyterian Historical Society  
\$1,218.80 to Cents-Ability

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### **A Program for Younger Pastors Through the Lilly Foundation**

The Institute for Clergy and Civic Engagement is open for cohort applications for its two year program beginning in the fall of 2017.

The ICCE is funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, and administered through Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. It is an ecumenical program, open to Arkansas pastors age 40 years and younger at an early stage (5 to 10 years out of seminary) in their ministry careers.

The purpose of the program is to assist in strengthening pastoral identity and to stimulate pastoral leadership as public theologians. Participants will address issues in which church, civic, and community entities may work together to meet the needs of the mission field outside the walls of the church.

The experience includes participation in six retreats and a mission trip over a two year period. Retreat content varies from focus on current issues, such as racial justice and poverty, to opportunities to deepen self-awareness and spiritual formation. Speakers and facilitators are drawn from government, business, educational, and non-profit sectors. Each participant in the cohort will develop a ministry project for his or her setting of ministry.

Retreats will be held at the Lookout Point/Lakeside Inn in Hot Springs, Arkansas. All expenses are paid by the grant, and each participant will receive a stipend.

If you are interested in receiving an application, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Cole, [micole@arumc.org](mailto:micole@arumc.org) or 501-960-7731, by March 1, 2017.

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## **Presbytery Office Can Use Gently Used Microwave**

Are you retiring a microwave oven?

Your Presbytery Office in Little Rock would be delighted to receive your gently used appliance for our kitchenette. Contact [stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org) or phone 501.663.2424x101 and Thank You!

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## **Presbytery Office -- Winter Weather Reminder**

In case of inclement weather, the presbytery office is closed when Little Rock School Districts are closed. We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

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## **Prayer List for Congregations -- 2017** 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](#)

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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 [LACY SELLARS](#)  
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

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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 12,000 Presbyterians gathered in 83 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