



March 2017

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Upcoming Opportunities

By Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

This month I want to use this space to inform you about a few opportunities you might want to take advantage of in the coming weeks.

The Synod of the Sun is having a seminar on **April 20-21** called "**Can We Talk? How to Have Civil Conversations in a Deeply Divided Society.**" The conference will be held at the **Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX.** The seminar will be led by Randall Butler, Executive Director of the Institute of Sustainable Peace. We will learn how we as leaders can engage in more civil conversations on divisive issues with members of our churches and communities. For more information you can contact me at the Presbytery office or visit the synod's website synodsun.org.



Registration is now open for "**Big Tent**", the national gathering of Presbyterians in the year between General Assembly Meetings. This year the gathering is nearby in **St. Louis, MO** and will be held **July 6-8 at Washington University.** More information and registration is available at pcusa.org ([click here](#)). If you are a baseball fan, the Cardinals are in town prior to and during the conference! (Also see grant opportunities elsewhere in The Banner).

First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana is inviting interested Presbyterians from Arkansas, Pines and Grace presbyteries to a weekend with former PCUSA Moderator **Dr. Neal Presa.** Presa was elected Moderator of the 220th Assembly that met in Pittsburgh in 2012. There will be a gathering for pastors in the ArkLaTex area on Saturday, April 29th at 6:30 pm at the Ironwood Restaurant (4312 Galleria Oaks in Texarkana). Please RSVP to pastor Susan Arnold by April 15 by email, pastor@firstpresbyteriantexarkana.org. On Sunday, April 30, Presa will lead a roundtable discussion during Sunday School (9:30 am) and preach during the 11:00 service. The church is located at 516 Pecan in Texarkana.

Hendrix College (in Conway) is accepting applications for its second clergy cohort for the **Institute of Clergy and Civic Engagement.** It is geared toward Arkansas pastors who are 5-10 years out of seminary (they will accept applications for those who are only 2-3 years out).

The primary purpose of the program is to develop the leadership skills and capacity for ministry of Arkansas pastors at an early stage in their careers so that they can lead their churches and communities in addressing major issues within the communities and meet the needs of the mission field outside the walls of the church.

Qualifications:

- * young clergy up to the age of 40 - ish.
- * five -ten years out of seminary.

The cohort will have up to 10 clergy serving in Arkansas and will represent various mainline Christian denominations. During their two-year period, the cohort will meet together six times for two-night retreats and then for a week-long mission trip in between their year one and two. Each retreat will have, as its focus, a current social issue such as race relations, poverty, immigration, handling controversial issues, etc. Each retreat will also contain a spiritual formation and renewal component.

Cohort participants will receive a stipend of \$2,750 per year during their participation in the two-year program.

For more information or to apply, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Cole at 501-960-7731 or micole@arumc.org.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to partner in ministry with each of you as we seek "to make visible the body of Christ" in this beautiful part of God's creation known as The Presbytery of Arkansas.

Stewart

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Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service

Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees or subcommittee beginning in 2018. To download the current form, [click here](#). **Please submit by March 24.**

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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. Inquiries can be directed via email to Jason Holt at 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 or 870-217-3661.

First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, AR, is 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 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.

Lyon College is looking for a full-time, 12 month per year College Chaplain. This person serves as pastor to students, staff and faculty; strengthens the spiritual life on campus; functions as liaison between the college and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and may teach one religion course each semester. Send PIF or resume with three references to: Ms. Clarinda Foot, P.O. Box 2317, Batesville, AR 72503-2317.

First Presbyterian Church of Walnut Ridge is searching for a full-time minister. Full salary and benefits are available. The church is prepared to help that person repay educational debt over a several year period. For more information, please contact Tom Moore, (870) 219-9379, thomasmoore929@gmail.com.

100 copies of "The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs" (published in 1990, embossed on the blue cover with Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista) are available for the taking, first come, first served. Contact niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org to arrange pick up.

First Presbyterian of Jacksonville would like to donate 50 blue Presbyterian Hymnals and 25 gold, machine-washable robes with burgundy stoles to any congregation that needs them. Please call Paula at 501-773-1738 for more information.

First Presbyterian Church
1208 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Word has reached the Presbytery office of the death at his home in Little Rock on December 23, 2016 of **Rev. John T. "Jack" Rorex**, 85, an honorably retired member of presbytery. Born in Maryville, TN, he attended school in the mining camps, completed his bachelor's degree at Maryville College and his M. Div. degree from Austin Presbyterian

Theological Seminary. He pastored churches in Texarkana, AR, Midland, TX and in this presbytery (Paragould and Little Rock) before serving as an Army chaplain during the Vietnam War.

After further education he was the director of Delta Hills Health System Agency in Batesville, administrator of The Meadowcreek Project in Fox, and manager of Heifer International Ranch in Perryville. Retiring in 2006, he assisted in his wife's catering business and served as a chaplain with Arkansas Hospice.

Jack is survived by his wife of 44 years, Nancy Leggett Rorex, two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The service was at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock on Dec. 29, and memorials were invited for Humane Society of Pulaski County, The Stewpot-Little Rock or the church.

--**Baxter Yarbrough** is the intern in youth ministry at First, Springdale.

--Prayers are appreciated for **Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Rice**, honorably retired pastor emeritus at First, Rogers, as he deals with health challenges. Cards may be sent to 300 W. Innisfree Circle, Apt. C-10, Rogers 72758.

--Prayers are appreciated for **Blake Buck, 17, son of Rev. Susan Rose and husband David Buck**, as Blake recuperates from injuries suffered in an accident on Feb. 18. Rev. Rose is campus minister at United Campus Ministries, UofA, Fayetteville and serves part-time at Elkins Federated Church. The family is active at First, Springdale.

--**Rev. Dr. Karen K. Akin** will be honored on March 28 as one of three Distinguished Alums at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She earned her Master of Divinity degree there in 1979 and is now pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Britton Varn**, presbytery staff for youth, has added a part-time, temporary (through July) position of Transitional Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock to her work life. She was Youth Director at Second from 2007 to 2011.

--Christian sympathy to family and friends of **Betty Jane McGinnis Faust** of Helena, Arkansas. Betty Jane died March 13, 2017 at the age of 88. A lifelong Presbyterian, Betty Jane was extremely active in the presbytery throughout her adult life, including serving as moderator of the presbytery in 1998. Here is a link to her obituary: [click here.](#)

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First Presbyterian in Argenta (North Little Rock)** received on Feb. 27 The Heroic Effort Award from the PTA of the North Little Rock School District for their efforts with the Seventh Street Elementary Food Pantry in providing food for the weekend for over 40 families (around 170 people) every week.

--**First, Gurdon** invites all to yoga classes for all ages and experience levels at three times on Wednesday and again on Thursday morning.

--**First United, Fayetteville** offers a Men's Lunch Group monthly on a Tuesday at a restaurant to share a devotional, discussion, joys and concerns and prayer.

--**First, Huntsville** plans a sunrise service and celebration breakfast before Easter Sunday worship.

--**First, Springdale** offers Lenten Wednesday night fellowships through April 5 on four spiritual disciplines-study, meditation, prayer and fasting.

--**Central, Russellville** is offering church property for garden beds to grow vegetables, herbs or flowers with the requirement to donate a portion to someone in need.

--**First, Malvern** children's Valentine party was enjoyed during Sunday School on Feb. 12

and later church members were trained in CPR and AED.

--**West End, Arkadelphia** Lenten Bible study began on Feb. 15 and continues on Wednesday evenings.

--**First, Arkadelphia** hosts UofO choir Monday, May 15.

--**First, Mountain Home** hosted community health screenings on March 16 and plans the church rummage sale on May 19-20 inside their building to generate proceeds given to local charities.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** supplies 65 backpacks for children in need.

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** members purchase Easter lilies, hydrangeas and azaleas to decorate the sanctuary for Easter.

--**First, Searcy** opens its sanctuary for public prayer every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 pm.

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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. 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.

WITH SPRING HERE, CAN VBS BE FAR BEHIND?

Many churches are looking at options for Vacation Bible School and YOUR Resource Center can help! We have exam kits for current year studies, permanent undated options, and free-for-the-taking "past" kits.

"**Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed**" is the 2017 VBS series from MennoMedia, a five-day curriculum on the sower and the seed, the lost sheep and lost coin, mustard seed and others taught through drama, worship, crafts and music.

"**Cokesbury's VBS Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!**" is one of Cokesbury's 2017 options, with five lessons on Samuel Anoints David, Abigail saves the day, Jesus goes to the temple, Beatitudes and Pentecost through music CD, leader guides, downloadable leader guides, student books, animated hero card set, nametag card and holder, craft samples, certificates and more.

"**VBS 2017 Fruits of the Spirit Daily lessons and Activities**" is from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services and designed for children 5-12 (or K through 6th grade), specifically on love, patience, joy, kindness and self-control through lessons including scripture, story about a child helped by PCHAS, group questions, prayer card and activity sheets for classroom or home.

PERMANENT UNDATED VBS STUDIES include "**Veggie Town Values**," "**Marketplace 29 A.D.**" (Acc. #5712), "**Festival of Faith: Advent-Christmas, Epiphany, Lent-Easter, Pentecost, Kingdomtide**" (Acc. #5716), "**B.C. 1440-Build a Holy Place...and I will dwell among you**" (Acc.

#5709), "What's in the Bible? VBS" and "Clean Water for All God's Children! VBS Curriculum from Living Waters for the World" (Acc. #9420).

FREE-FOR-THE-TAKING "Past Years" VBS kits from various companies (PC(USA), Cokesbury, Concordia, Augsburg, Standard Publishing and Group) are also available. Just contact me about when you would like to look at and "adopt" one of these engaging kits.

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.)

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS!

Although the deadline to register for Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Summer Trips has passed, if you have a youth who is interested in attending, please contact Britton at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org! If she can get another spot from the conference and we have a vehicle seat available, she will do her best to add youth to these trips.

Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch

July 1-6, 2017

6th-8th graders

\$395 (price reduced from \$560!!)

Sr. High Mission Trip with Memphis Youth Mission (Memphis, TN)

July 9-14, 2017

8th-12th graders

\$320

Montreat Youth Conference

July 22-29, 2017

8th-12th graders

\$799

Info and registration forms here:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

Partial scholarships are available for those with financial need.

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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Big Tent Conference in St. Louis July 6-8

Grants Available from Presbytery's Mission of the Church Ministry Area

Big Tent 2017 to focus on 'Race, Reconciliation and Reformation'

Presbyterians from around the country are invited to live out their faith at **Big Tent 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri**. This biennial gathering will take place **July 6-8**, on the campus of **Washington University**. The theme-Race, Reconciliation and Reformation-will emphasize the hope of the gospel and its power to transform society in the current cultural context marked by anxiety, racial division, political animosity and economic inequality.

Big Tent offers Presbyterians an exciting opportunity to discern some of the toughest concerns of the day, while actively engaging with their faith community.

"Big Tent is one of the finest denominational events put on by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)," said **Tony De La Rosa**, Interim Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. "Three days of quality programming held in a central, convenient location at a reasonable cost for participants-this

year's Big Tent gathering promises to be among the best ever."

The opening worship preacher will be PC(USA) Stated Clerk, the **Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II**. The Rev. Dr. Christine Hong, Assistant Professor of Worship and Evangelism and Chapel Worship Coordinator at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be the closing worship preacher.

"As we grapple with the emerging church of the 21st century it is imperative that we come together to listen, learn and envision the future," said Nelson. "God through Jesus Christ is providing us an opportunity at Big Tent to go deep in our theology and faith while renewing our spirits."

Registration is now open and is \$395. The price includes registration, accommodations for three nights and meals. A \$145 rate for commuters is also being offered.

For updates visit pcusa.org/bigtent.

The Mission of the Church ministry-area of the presbytery wishes to encourage any person who plans to attend the Big Tent event discussed above to **apply for one of the \$50 grants** to assist in meeting expenses in making the trip to and from St. Louis and associated costs. You may apply via email to Kelly Pearson, moderator-- ktpearson@suddenlink.net. Also, those willing to caravan or carpool with persons from other congregations, please coordinate with NiAnn Thompson in the Presbytery Office. Mission of the Church was pleased to award grants to people from Jonesboro and Prairie Grove to attend the NEXT Church Conference last week in Kansas City.

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Conference Opportunities at Mo-Ranch Conference Center

Mo-Ranch College Connection Conference
May 15-19, 2017

***2017 theme: "Be the Change" as Presented by
Keynote Speaker, David LaMotte.***

Discover the strengths inside of yourself so that you can be the change you want to see in the world.

Relax and experience a week that's filled with new friends, renewal, worship and fun at a place that's like no place else - Mo-Ranch!

Conference activity highlights include worship, keynote presentations, vespers, stand up paddle board yoga, campfires, a private concert with David LaMotte, small group time, volleyball tournament, ropes course, free time and more!

College Connection invites rising sophomores through recent college graduates to attend.

Conference Rate:

\$398 (includes meals, tuition and lodging).

Commuter Rate:

\$245 (excludes breakfast and lodging, includes lunch, dinner and tuition).

Women's Conference
Session I - May 30 to June 1, 2017
Session II - June 2-4, 2017

**2017 theme: "A Durable Fabric; Frayed but not Afraid" as Presented by
Keynote Speaker, MaryAnn McKibben Dana**

Take a break from the busyness of life during the Mo-Ranch Women's Conference to recharge physically, mentally and spiritually. Gather together with hundreds of other women from across the region for either of the identical sessions of Women's Conference. Conference activities include keynote presentations, worship, fellowship, recreation, free time and workshops.

Mothers, daughters and granddaughters come together for a time of reunion and growth. Friendships that last a lifetime are made by women who would not have otherwise met.

Registration is open. Register for both conferences now online at www.moranch.org/attend.

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, 2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024

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

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.

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

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

We are also due for 5-year renewal of the background checks for our ministers, commissioned ruling elders and Certified Christian Educators. Please submit the Sexual Misconduct Policy's "Acknowledgment of Receipt" ([click here](#)) and the "Background Check Form" ([click here](#)).

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

Contact Temporary Stated Clerk Leslie Belden ([click here for email](#)) to finish the review of Session minutes and registers for 2016 and previous years.

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.

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

The deadline for applications is April 16, 2017.

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Vera Lloyd Reminds You of: ArkansasGives 2017, Pink Hat Day

ArkansasGives 2017

Please support your Presbyterian ministries during the state-wide ArkansasGives day on April 6, 2017. This special day is hosted by the Arkansas Community Foundation to highlight philanthropy and to raise support for non-profits. Three Presbyterian ministries are participating, and each will greatly benefit from your gifts and the "bonus" dollars available from the ARCF. Donors can make a gift of \$25 or more from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. that day. For more information and to give, visit www.arkansasgives.org.

For Ferncliff: Your gifts will provide Stop Hunger Now meal packaging equipment and supplies for Ferncliff campers

For Presbyterian Village: Your gifts will support the Mabee Foundation Challenge grant of \$400,000 for capital renovations

For Vera Lloyd: Your gifts will provide summer activities for the boys and girls, like reading clubs, music, and Ferncliff camp, which will be matched up to \$20,000.
3rd annual (and last) Arkansas Gives on-line giving day, Thursday, April 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Make a gift of \$25 or more by credit at ArkansasGives.org

Pink Hat Day -- Saturday, May 6th

Come to Vera Lloyd's children's home for the annual Pink Hat Day celebration

Bring your church members and PW group to Vera Lloyd for the Donor Appreciation and Pink Hat Day luncheon Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 745 Old Warren Road in Monticello.

The unique and fun celebration of your support includes lunch, tours of the children's home, visits with youth, a parade of embellished pink hats and recognition of outstanding service by individuals, churches and organizations.

Look for your invitation in the mail soon!

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Centsability Recipients for 2017 Named

Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team has named the following international, national and local agencies as the recipients (1/3 to each) of donations to Centsability (formerly known as 2 cents a meal):

International--Feed the Children Mission, established in 1979 and headquartered in Oklahoma City, is a non-profit relief organization serving 11 countries around the world with food and essentials. It is accredited by guide star exchange, BBB Wise Giving Alliance and rated by Charity Navigator.

National--Feeding America Network, based in Chicago, is a non-profit nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs including recipient food banks in Fort Smith, Jonesboro and Little Rock.

Local--Helping Hands in Bentonville, AR is a non-profit organization formed by local churches and volunteers, receiving no government funding, and which last year helped 11,707 families.

Centsability donations (ideally 2 cents for every individual's meal or 42 cents a week) may be sent to the Presbytery office, 9221 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR. 72227.

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Presbyterian Village Invites You to their Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Village Lodge Courtyard

510 Brookside Drive, Little Rock

Please bring children and grandchildren to enjoy Easter festivities, egg hunting and snacks!

For more information, contact melissajenkins@presbyvillage.org

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Presbyterian Women Happenings

Apologies to Rev. Laura Fleetwood, HR, and Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard, as their leadership for the PW Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, was incorrectly listed in the February Banner. The Rev. Laura Fleetwood will be the Keynote Speaker, and the Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard will be the Worship Leader at the Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian, Hot Springs on April 22.

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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 STAFF:

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)
Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)
Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)
Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)
Staff Resource for Vital Congregations [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [LACY SELLARS](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [LESLIE ROPER](#)

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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