



May 2017

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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## Something Different Before the Presbytery Meeting

By Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

I want to invite each of you to come early for the upcoming meeting of Presbytery which will be held on Saturday, June 3 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The "early" part will take place on Friday, June 2 at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center. Rev. Michael Vinson will lead the first in a series of workshops called "Skills for Thriving in Change." This initial workshop is titled "Fostering a Life-Nurturing Environment in Your Congregation." The workshop will begin at 1:00 pm in the new Dining Hall at Ferncliff. There is no cost to attend and after the workshop you will be treated to a sumptuous "burrito bar" catered by Moe's Southwest Grill. The meal will also be without charge as a gift for attending the workshop. Michael has more information about the workshop in an article below.



I write this from a Presbytery Leader Formation conference that is designed to train new leaders serving in presbyteries in the PCUSA. This morning I attended a session on Adaptive Leadership. Adaptive Leadership is the practice of mobilizing people to tackle tough challenges and thrive. If there is a common theme among the group of about 30 presbytery leaders, it is that we are in a season of incredible change. We are in a time of declining resources and the landscape is changing dramatically before our eyes. You are facing tough challenges in your congregations and we are facing tough challenges as a presbytery. Knowing that reality, all of us are facing a need for Adaptive Leadership and making changes in how we operate. I hope this workshop is one that you will consider attending. Unfortunately, Michael doesn't have the magic answer for you to take back to your congregation, but he will give you some tools to take back to begin having these conversations in your congregation.

Another common theme among my colleagues at the conference is a concern about their camp facility. Several are trying to sell their camp and are having difficulty doing so and many find the camp to be a liability instead of an asset. We are very fortunate to be in a very different position. Our presbytery and several congregations and many faithful Presbyterians have made substantial investments of money, time and energy to make Ferncliff one of the premier camp and conference centers in the denomination.

We are inviting people to gather on the evening before the presbytery meeting to enjoy this beautiful space and to spend quality time together in an atmosphere when we are not listening to reports, examining potential candidates for ministry or voting on overtures from the General Assembly. You are invited to come and bring your own snacks and drinks and sit out on the porches at Ferncliff overlooking the lake and enjoy fellowship and conversation with each other. There will be a trivia contest held in the Dining Hall at 7:00 pm with prizes for the winning team. For those who have not seen the new additions to our beautiful camp, you will have an opportunity to tour the Youth Camp, the new pool, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Warehouse and the newly constructed garden area after the recent storms. Rooms are being offered at a discounted rate of \$79.00 for a single, \$45.00 per

person double occupancy (breakfast included). For those wanting more fellowship, group style accommodations are offered in the retreat house for (\$30.00 with breakfast included). You can register at [this link](#) on the Ferncliff website or, if you experience difficulties, call 501-821-3063 for assistance.

This will allow you an opportunity to have a fun, leisurely evening and morning rather than rushing to get to Little Rock in time for the opening gavel at 2nd Pres. at 9:45 am Saturday. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to gather with your fellow Presbyterians from across our presbytery. I look forward to seeing many of you there and I am honored to be partnered with each of you as we seek to make the body of Christ visible in this beautiful part of God's creation in which we live.

*Stewart*

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**Fostering A Life-Nurturing Environment in Your Congregation**

## PRE-PRESBYTERY WORKSHOP



The Presbytery's Future of the Church Ministry Area is sponsoring a workshop Friday afternoon, June 2 beginning at 1 pm at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. This workshop is the first of three workshops to be offered by Future of the Church on the theme "Thriving in Change."

Rev. Michael Vinson, Presbytery Resource for Mission Discernment, is the workshop leader for the series. Michael has been engaged by the Presbytery of Arkansas to assist in a number of ways: working to help bridge the work between committees during the Presbytery's reorganization process, identifying needs for ministry, helping committees identify ways to live into their mission, as well as identifying and helping to address issues important to the church and the presbytery during this rapidly changing time. Michael brings us his skills in leadership and organizational development along with the perspective of being a long-standing member of Presbytery, a combination that ensures that the workshops are pertinent to Presbytery at this time.

There is no cost for the workshop and dinner is provided to workshop attendees.

The first workshop for learning how to thrive in change is "Fostering a Life-Nurturing Environment in Your Congregation." Even if you already have a life-nurturing environment in your congregation, times of change can be life-depleting. You may be in a congregation environment that has already lost

ground towards a life-depleting environment with its accompanying stuckness and even conflict. Life-nurturing climates within congregations are more suited to thriving in change. You probably know this.

In this workshop, we will explore some ways to foster a life-nurturing environment. You will get tips and tools to get the conversations started so that your congregation can choose whether it wants to put some time and energy into fostering a life-nurturing environment. These tips and tools, framed within a bigger picture of strengthening the congregation's capacity to thrive in these times of constant (and often rapid) change may be just what the congregation is wanting.

You will also get tips and tools that will assist you if the initial conversations conclude that the congregation does want to invest time and energy to learn to thrive in change. They are simple, easy to understand, and easy to use. The program that Michael bases his work from has as a guiding principle to keep it simple. The premise is that when the tips and tools used are simple, it is possible to handle complexity.

This workshop would be for you:

- If you want to increase your skills in helping your church thrive in change
- If you are concerned that enthusiasm is going down
- If you have noticed that there is growing negativity
- If you are seeking more willingness by members of your congregation
- If you are looking for ways to get "unstuck" and move forward in ministry
- If you are ready to get resolution on recurring issues
- If you are concerned about loss of membership and finances

Friday, June 2, 2017 at 1 pm  
The (New) Dining Hall  
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center  
1720 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock, AR 72223

The workshop and dinner afterward are for workshop attendees only and are free of charge. Registration required at:

<http://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?idCamp=678&campCode=fcc&idSession=1559>

If you have difficulty registering, phone Ferncliff at 501-821-3063.

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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](#).

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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 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 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](mailto:thomasmoore929@gmail.com).

**Central Presbyterian Church (Fort Smith, AR)** is searching for a full-time pastor. The church is between 251-400 members, with average worship attendance of 86 members. Desired experience is Solo Pastor/Head of Staff with 5-10 years of experience. Central Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith that seeks to serve Jesus Christ through sharing our collective talents, proclaiming the Gospel, feeding the hungry, healing the brokenhearted, supporting local and worldwide missions, and enjoying the journey with the Triune God. For more information, visit the church's website at [www.centralfortsmith.org](http://www.centralfortsmith.org), email at [info@centralfortsmith.org](mailto:info@centralfortsmith.org) or call 479-783-8966.

**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

--Christian sympathy goes to the family and friends of **Rev. Duane Udell Farris**, 97, who died in Mountain Home on April 30. He was an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

Born in Bellefonte, AR, Farris attended the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Princeton Seminary. He served churches in CA and TX, retired in 1986 and was received by AR Presbytery in 2007. He is survived by one son, two granddaughters, four great grandchildren and preceded in death by his wife Joy Farris and one son. His service was held at First Presbyterian, Mountain Home on May 5, where he attended, with Rev. Michael Clark officiating.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Certified Christian Educator Jeannie Ford** and husband Collins Andrews of Little Rock on the death of her mother Sara Crawford DeMotte on April 27. The memorial service was held on May 1 at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock where all are members. Jeannie is the church educator at Second and moderator of the presbytery's Resource Center Advisory Board, and Collins is a member of the presbytery's Future of the Church Committee.

--Christian sympathy goes to the family and friends of **Virginia Andrew** who died in Bella Vista on April 27. She is the widow of the late **Rev. Les Andrew**, honorably retired minister member of presbytery, who died in 2010.

--**Jeannie Corbitt** is ministry intern at First, Conway.

--**Rev. Dr. Robert W. and Mrs. Kathleen Hadley** will be honored by the congregation of the Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Bay with a reception on Saturday, May 27, from 2 to 4 on their retirement from the Kirk, where Bob has been pastor, and remembering their ministry and contributions to the community and the presbytery. For information, contact Kirk office between 9 and noon weekdays at 501.884.3304.

--**Rev. Bill and Elizabeth Branch** of Little Rock have been deployed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to provide spiritual care to people in Newport and Pocahontas affected by recent flooding. Bill is a former General Presbyter who now serves at First, Newport and

First, Walnut Ridge part-time and Elizabeth "Liz" is a member of the presbytery's Subcommittee on Disaster Preparation and Response.

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

--**Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman** hosted 21 students from Texas A&M Corpus Christi during their spring break. The church was their home away from home for a week, with shower facilities located in the former manse - now Gretta Lane Thrift Shop. This alternate spring break program, which seeks to get students actively involved and committed to community service, to cultivate student leadership, and to promote civic responsibility, worked with the Ouachita National Forest Service in Montgomery and Garland Counties. Their leader, Sydney Moreno, an environmental major senior, is a Presbyterian from San Antonio who researched the PCUSA website for a Presbyterian church because she knew Presbyterians are focused on mission. It was a wonderful week for both the students and the congregation, who provided one evening meal.

--**Holly Grove Presbyterian** honored its members celebrating 90+ years of age on April 2, 2017 at the 11:00 AM worship service, with a potluck following. Pictured below are (back row, l-r): Lib Stone (95), Georgia Etta Jackson (91), Gene Miller (92), (front row, l-r): Henry Louis Newby (93), Maxine Newby (92) and Ruth Dearing (90):



--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** literacy volunteers offer classes to inmates in the Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility. This program, co-sponsored by Literacy Action of Central Arkansas and the Central Arkansas Library System, is in its second year for the women's program and its fourth month for the men's program.

--Youth from **Wynne Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, Jonesboro** are combining to attend Montreat Middle School Conference July 19-24 in NC.

--**First, Prairie Grove** collected change in "fish banks" for One Great Hour of Sharing special offering and brought them to church on Easter Sunday.

--**First, Bentonville** flowered a wooden cross in the welcome hall on Easter Sunday and hosted a regional Presbyterian youth event on April 30.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** hosted the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on May 4 and planned a Presbyterian Singles event on May 6 with lunch out, dessert and games at the church.

--**First, Conway** youth led worship in word and music in April and recognized Graduating



Seniors in worship at the potluck after worship on May 7.

--**First, Fort Smith** pastors' class studies the previous Sunday's sermon text week in Fellowship Hall and on April 29 sponsored and worked on the 100th Habitat for Humanity house in that city.

--**Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock's** newsletter featured an article explaining hymn tunes and on May 7 they hosted an annual multi-church youth event at Ferncliff Camp.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** used a grant to improve landscaping in and around church property, entrance to sanctuary and the main facility.

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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.

### **SUMMER READING OPPORTUNITIES**

Why not challenge yourself with a challenging or uplifting read this summer? Any of these fit the bill and are available from YOUR Resource Center lending library.

**"Flunking Sainthood: A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor"** by Jana Riess

**"Soul Unfinished: Finding Happiness, Taking Risks & Trusting God as We Grow Older"** by Robert Atwell

**"Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of Now"** by Walter Brueggemann

**"When Your Life Is On Fire What Would You Save?"** by Erik Kolbell

**"Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps"** by Richard Rohr

**"I Love Growing Older but I'll Never Grow Old"** by J. Ellsworth Kalas

**"God of Earth: Discovering a Radically Ecological Christianity"** by Kristin Swenson

**"Self-Nurture: Learning to Care for Yourself as Effectively As You Care for Everyone Else"** by Alice D. Domar

**"Truth Speaks to Power: The Countercultural Nature of Scripture"** by Walter Brueggemann

**"The Holy Spirit"** by Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon

**"Listening for God: Volume 1"** from Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith series featuring works by Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Patricia Hampl, Raymond Carver, Annie Dillard, Alice Walker, Garrison Keillor and Richard Rodriguez

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**

### **PLEASE SHARE! SEEKING YOUTH, COLLEGE, AND ADULT DELEGATES TO SERVE ON THE YOUTH ADVISORY TEAM!**

It's time to recruit a wonderful group of youth (10th-12 graders), college students, and adults to serve as our Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team (YAT) for next year! Please help us get the word out that YAT applications are available and need to be returned by May 26! Thank you for sending this info to youth, college students, or adults who would be great on the Team. We would love to have YOU serve as well!

If you have any questions regarding the Youth A-Team or the application process, please contact outgoing Adult Co-Moderator Geoff Ryken ([geoff@ryken.com](mailto:geoff@ryken.com)) or incoming Adult Co-Moderator Rachel Cowan ([rscowan@yahoo.com](mailto:rscowan@yahoo.com)).

Applications can be found here:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Youth%20Advisory%20Team%20Letter%20and%20Application%20for%202017-2018.pdf>

### **Youth Advisory Team of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

We are a team of youth, college students, and adults that gather to grow in our faith and our leadership abilities & to help the Presbytery make disciples of Jesus Christ through events, conferences, and mission opportunities!

The Youth Advisory Team (A-Team) plans events and trips open to all youth in the presbytery.

The A-Team is a sub-committee of the Presbytery's Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Mission Team.

### **There are three types of delegates for Youth Advisory Team:**

Youth delegate - 10th-12th grade for 2017-2018 school year

College delegate - high school graduate through age 22

Adult delegate - 23 or older

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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, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.)

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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](http://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](mailto: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 in March in Kansas City.

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## **Conference Opportunities at Mo-Ranch Conference Center**

**Summer Camp 2017  
One to two week sessions  
June 4-July 22, 2017  
Ages 8-15  
Early bird and sibling discounts available**

Mo-Ranch Summer Camp is a co-ed residential Christian summer camp that's located along the north fork of the Guadalupe River in the wide-open spaces of the beautiful Texas Hill Country! Our summer camp is a place where your child will grow in character, faith and confidence through meaningful relationships in a Christ-centered natural setting.

Registration is open. Register now online at [www.summercamp.moranch.org](http://www.summercamp.moranch.org).

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

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## **Interfaith Arkansas Scholarship Application**

Apply here for the Interfaith Arkansas Scholarship to CDI 2017: [www.uca.edu/cdi/IA-CDI-Scholarship-Application.pdf](http://www.uca.edu/cdi/IA-CDI-Scholarship-Application.pdf).

The Interfaith Arkansas Scholarship is intended to empower a clergy person to learn community development skills they will utilize to empower their community. The scholarship is intended to cover all three years of CDI. It is intended primarily for clergy, but all people from the faith community are encouraged to apply. Applications should be sent to [interfaithark@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithark@gmail.com).

Application deadline is May 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

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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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## **Vera Lloyd Set to Dedicate New Playground**

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services will dedicate the Elsie Nolan Playground at its Annie B. Wells children's home on Friday, May 19, at 10 a.m.

The playground addition was made possible by a grant from the Blue and You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas, the Estate of Elsie Nolan and generous individuals.

"We are home to boys and girls, ages six to 21, who are in state custody due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or adjudication," Donna Mahurin, CEO, said. "With the addition of a playground with fitness stations, youth of any age at Vera Lloyd can easily benefit from physical activity and play."

About Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' corporate office is located in Little Rock and its children's home is located in Monticello. The children's home was established in 1923 through the dedication and monetary support of Lulu Williamson, Vera Lloyd and Annie B. Wells. Vera Lloyd provides residential housing for up to 42 youth at any one time and close to 200 youth every year.

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## Upcoming Honduras Trip

July 14-22, 2017

We will be working on community development teaming up with with First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. We will mostly be working to build cement homes and also strengthen our relationship with the people and Presbytery of Honduras. We'll be splitting our time between two communities in the Trinidad and Copán regions, where our teams have worked in the past.

Orientation meetings will be set up to prepare everyone for the trip physically, mentally, and spiritually. The estimated cost of the trip is \$1,300/person. For those in need, there are scholarship funds available. Youth and children are welcome, though if under 10th grade will need a parent to also go on the trip.

Email Trip Director Leigh Woodruff Harvey ([leigh.woodruff@yahoo.com](mailto:leigh.woodruff@yahoo.com)) if you're interested in an application.

VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c8sSPtRQs&sns=em>



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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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## Take Advantage of Your Own Power

"They have taken advantage of their own power." So said an official with Presbyterian Self-Development of People about a West Indian village that is learning to be self-sufficient.

How about you and your congregation? Have you taken advantage of your power to prepare for possible disaster-and not be a victim of wind, water, fire, or other dangers?

If you are not sure where to start, contact your Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee, Ike Brighton at [ginik471@gmail.com](mailto:ginik471@gmail.com) or 501-680-0086; or Liz Branch at [erbranch@comcast.net](mailto:erbranch@comcast.net) or 501-944-9743. When you take a step toward preparing, please let us know that as well!

You have power; and you may be able to keep an emergency from becoming a disaster!

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### **As we all know there have been devastating floods across the northern tier of counties here in Arkansas.**

At the request of General Presbyter Stewart Smith, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has deployed several people from the National Response Team to provide assistance to the presbytery response. Your Presbytery Subcommittee on Disaster Preparedness and Response is active in response to the high water.

If you wish to donate to help your neighbors you can do so with a donation to the Presbytery, 9221 N. Rodney Parham, Little Rock 72227 (marked for flood response) or to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at 1 (800) 872-3283 to make a credit card donation and designate DR-000191 (U.S. - AR).

You can also help by sending one or more flood buckets to Church World Service at Ferncliff. For a list of items in the buckets, see: [www.cwskits.org](http://www.cwskits.org).

Thanks for all your help and prayers.

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparation and Response Subcommittee. Additional information is available at:

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

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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>