



September 2017

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"The Overwhelming Flood"

By Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

It has been a rough few weeks weather-wise and nature-wise since school has started. Our news cycle has been rightly saturated with the devastating hurricanes that hit Texas and Florida. Almost lost in that time period was a major earthquake that claimed almost 100 lives in Mexico and extreme wildfires that have disrupted lives in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge area of Oregon. The difficult news seems overwhelming.

Many have asked how they can help with the Hurricane relief efforts. We encouraged you to donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the initial days after Hurricane Harvey and that continues to be a good way to contribute after Hurricane Irma. You can find resources (prayers, a hymn, bulletin inserts, etc.) and can donate directly at pda.pcusa.org. Some have asked how our neighboring presbyteries have fared in the Synod of the Sun. Five churches in Mission Presbytery received damage mainly from the initial landfall of Harvey. Two ministers and 2 CRE's received extensive damage to their homes. In New Covenant Presbytery (Houston and Southeast Texas area) 18 congregations received varying levels of damage and a dozen ministers were flooded out of their homes. If you would like to contribute directly to either presbytery you can do so on their respective websites: pbyofnewcovenant.org or missionpby.org. Ferncliff's PDA warehouse is busy collecting and assembling flood buckets to the Houston area. David Gill reports that they have sent three shipments and assembled over 500 buckets in addition to buckets that are arriving from various places around the country. You will find information below about how your congregation can assist in this ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



In the midst of these overwhelming situations I want to share a heartwarming story from one of our congregations. Graham Memorial in Forrest City, has been housing a group of 48 refugees from West Palm Beach, Florida who evacuated before Hurricane Irma hit. The group consists of the pastor and several members of the congregation of the City of Faith Church in West Palm Beach. One of the members has a relative in Forrest City and they called the church to inquire if they could house them. The church said "yes - come on!" They have been graciously housed in the gym at Graham Memorial and the group

from Florida and the members at Graham Memorial have experienced an overwhelming flood of support from the Forrest City community. Support has come from many avenues in the community to help the church host their guests from West Palm Beach. The visitors have fit right in to the life of the community for the week attending the high school football game on Friday evening and serving in the Graham Memorial Soup Kitchen which served over 345 people. All of this while this small but dedicated congregation is making plans to host us at the 136th meeting of the Presbytery which will take place on October 6 and 7.



Left to right: Pastor Craig Cobb, GMPC Clerk of Session Kim Danehower and Lady Lisa Cobb. The Cobbs lead City of Faith non-denominational church in West Palm Beach, FL and evacuated to Graham Memorial, Forrest City to avoid Hurricane Irma and were guests there for a week.

I have no doubt that members of Graham Memorial will overwhelm us with a flood of hospitality as we gather for the upcoming meeting of presbytery. You will read information about the upcoming meeting in this edition of The Banner including information about the second in the series of Michael Vinson's workshops on "developing skills for thriving in times of change". We will also be pleased to welcome Dr. David Johnson, Associate professor of Church History and Christian Spirituality at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Johnson, along with our own Rev. Rebecca Spooner of Wellspring Renewal Center will lead

our theological discussions on the topic of "Reformed Spirituality."

I especially look forward to being back at Graham Memorial Church which was the home of my childhood. That congregation has provided me an overwhelming flood of love and support and nurture since my family moved there when I was six years old and I'm sure you will experience that as well. I look forward to seeing you in Forrest City and I continue to be grateful to be partnered with you in ministry as together 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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Presbytery to Meet in Forrest City

The 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas will head east, meeting at **Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 6-7**. Rev. Michael Vinson, presbytery staff member, will lead the second workshop in a series from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, this one entitled "Mapping Congregational Transformation, Aligning with Your Purpose as a Congregation". Registration for the meeting begins at 5, dinner is on your own with displays setting up until the gavel sounds in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

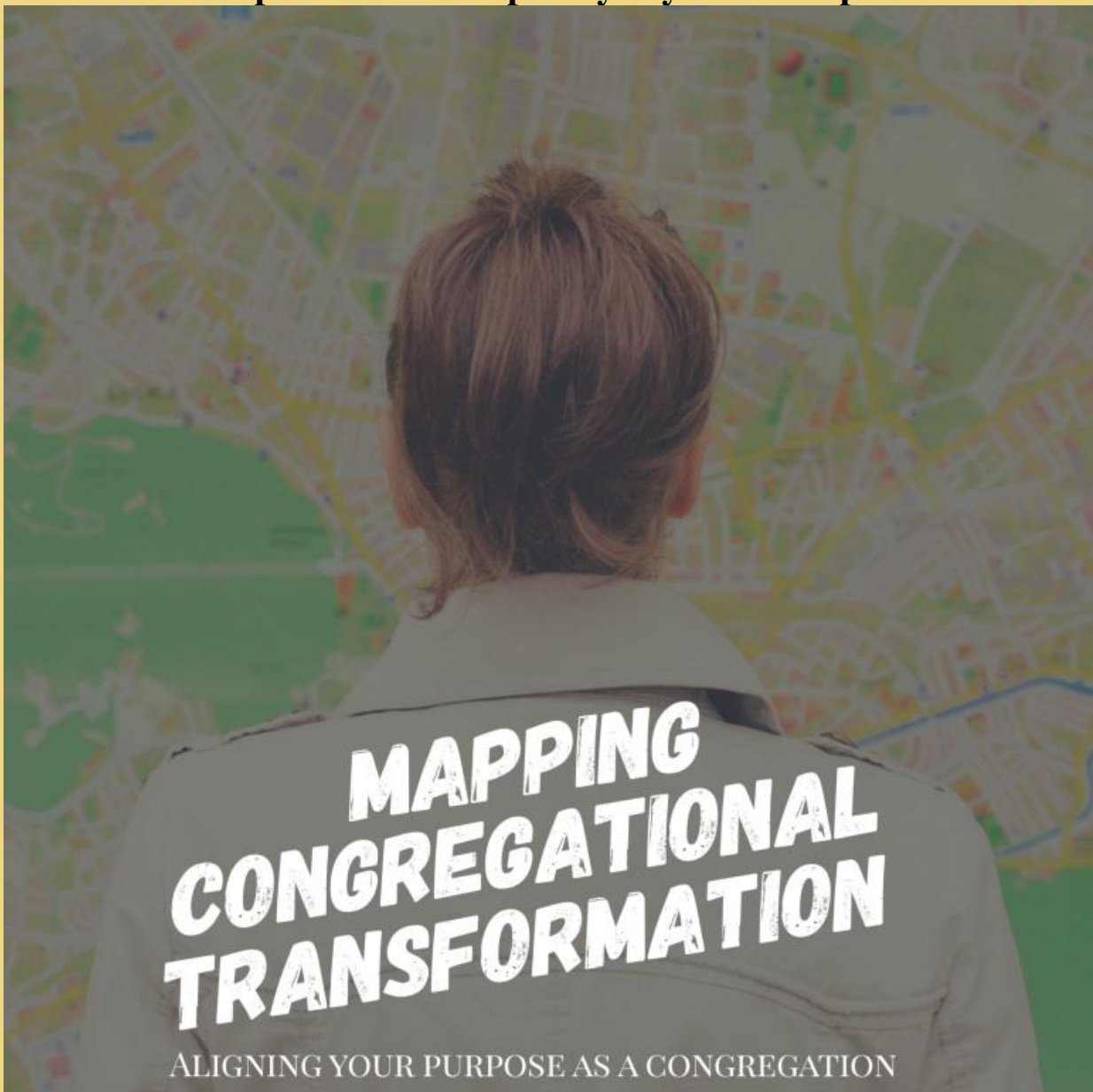
Highlights of this meeting include: Theological Discussion led by Dr. David Johnson of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary on "Reformed Spirituality and Current Trends, Patterns and Practices," worship with communion and a candidate for ordination preaching and fellowship. On Saturday regular business (at 8:30 am) will be punctuated by the presentation "Encouraging Opportunities for Spiritual Development across the Generations" by Dr. Johnson, polity committee's report on a possible constitutional amendment and Rev. Rebecca Spooner's spiritual development for caregivers in families, congregations and communities.

Congregations are encouraged to plan now to send an elder commissioner to this stated meeting.

Dates and locations for 2018 presbytery meetings were set by the Coordinating Team on August 5th: Feb. 9-10, Lyon College, Batesville; June 2, First, Conway and Oct. 19-20, Ferncliff Camp.

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**"Mapping Congregational Transformation, Aligning with Your Purpose as a Congregation"
Topic of Next Pre-presbytery Workshop.**



In this second workshop on developing skills for thriving in change, we will be considering how understanding your purpose as a congregation can be a helpful resource in navigating change. This is a stand-alone workshop and does not require that you have attended previous workshops on Thriving in Change.

The workshop is sponsored by the Future of the Church Ministry Area. Details regarding registration, time and location may be found in other parts of The Banner. There is no cost for the workshop, and dinner will be provided for workshop participants.

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

We will explore the relationship of purpose in knowing what next steps to take in navigating change. Being able to answer the question "why are we here?" is a good anchoring point for discerning next steps in ministry. Understanding the purpose of the congregation also helps determine the kind of leadership necessary to accomplish the purpose and helps to develop a vision for where you expect the congregation to be in the future. Even if you already have a clearly articulated purpose for your congregation, in this workshop you will learn new ways of working with purpose in order to discern next steps in ministry in ways that increase engagement and support the congregation in working to transition to next steps in ministry.

The tools and processes you will learn in this 4-hour workshop are simple, easy to understand, and easy to use. The program that Michael bases his work on has as a guiding principle to keep it simple. The premise is that when the tools and processes used are simple, it is possible to handle complexity more simply.

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 or lack of interest
- 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

For a link to register for this workshop, [click here](#). For a brochure with more details, [click here](#).

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"Reformed-Spirituality" at a Presbytery Meeting

One does not have to be an elder-commissioner or pastor to attend and be blessed by a Presbytery Meeting.

Next month, October 6th & 7th, is no exception. Friday evening and Saturday, the theological discussion/lecture emphasis will be "Reformed Spirituality."

There are many secular-religious voices addressing spirituality today. While there are things that may be valued by some of them, why not hear a couple of presenters speak of and discuss our Reformed Spirituality as it relates to our personal lives of faith, congregations and communities?

One presenter is **Dr. David Johnson**, an associate professor of Church History and Christian Spirituality at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Johnson has an undergraduate degree from Yale and his doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has served Presbyterian congregations as pastor and is published. He will have two speaking segments: the first will be Friday evening at 6:45-"Reformed Spirituality and Current Trends, Patterns, and Practices," and then Saturday at 10:30 a.m.-"Encouraging Opportunities for Spiritual Development Across the Generations."

Also, on Saturday at 2:00 p.m., we will hear from the **Rev. Rebecca Spooner** of Wellspring Renewal Center. Rebecca, as we know her, is also a product of Princeton Theological Seminary, a teaching-elder of our presbytery who pastored for 13 years, and is a licensed professional counselor. She will present on the topic-"Spirituality as a Caregiver at Any Age(of family, congregation or community).

Each of these topics from these human resources, no doubt, will offer something of value for each person attending. Why not rent a motel room in Forrest City or drive over daily to attend, if for no other reason than these lectures? But there well are other reasons, such as-

-the Friday evening worship.

--Kelly Pearson, Commissioned Pastor & Moderator of the Mission of the Church ministry-area

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Disaster Prep--Flood Buckets and Hygiene Kits Needed

Demand is high for Church World Service emergency cleanup buckets and hygiene kits after Hurricane Harvey. The Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center needs restocking of both buckets and kits, which are offered to equip survivors after a flood, tornado or other disaster. At the October 6 and 7 presbytery meeting in Forrest City, you can pick up buckets and lids for your church, fill them and return them to Ferncliff or to the February presbytery meeting. Filling buckets and kits is a wonderful way for people who can't travel to the disaster site, to be involved in disaster ministry.

Here's what you'll need for a Church World Service emergency cleanup bucket:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new - all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75.00

Processing fee: \$3.00 per bucket

Provide hygiene kits to make all the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

Here's what you'll need for a Church World Service hygiene kit:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
- One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

Value: \$15.00

Processing fee: \$2.00 per kit

Note: Donations of money are also needed: Ferncliff is able to make buckets for \$35 or less due to volume discounts compared to about \$60 when an individual goes out and purchases the items. There's a similar cost savings for kit supplies.

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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. 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 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.

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, email at info@centralfortsmith.org or call 479-783-8966.

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock seeks *Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture*. The person in this full-time ordained position will provide leadership and support for the church's ministries of pastoral care and counseling, hospital visitation, and congregational fellowship. Job Description can be found at <http://www.secondpreslr.org/search-for-associate-pastor/>. Personal Information Forms can be sent to Philip Shell at pshell88@gmail.com.

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Meet our New YAVs -- Young Adult Volunteers

Doing All Things with Great Love

In early August, we said goodbye to the three Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) that had served at Ferncliff this past year, and welcomed three new YAVs to Little Rock: Sharon Boer, Megan Canfield and Kristen Sommerfeld (shown here L-R). During their year in Little Rock, they will do many small things -- as well as many big things -- with great love, to borrow a maxim from Mother Teresa.



All recent graduates of their respective colleges, these three young adults have committed to a year of volunteer service, vocational discernment, and simple living at Ferncliff Camp

and Conference Center through the PC(USA) YAV program. Sharon, from Iowa, is a graduate of the University of Dubuque with a BA in Communication. She will serve as the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance YAV at the Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff. Megan hails from Ohio, and comes to us from Wilmington College, where she double majored in Political Communications for Social Change and Psychology. This year Megan will split her time between Ferncliff and Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light, engaging in sustainability projects for both organizations. Kristen is from North Carolina and will be the farm steward at Ferncliff, a perfect fit for her, as she received a BS in animal science from the University of Tennessee.

We are blessed to have them in Little Rock and look forward to this year of growing in God with them! Ann Owen

Ann Bowick Owen, MPS
Site Coordinator, Young Adult Volunteers
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

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Board of Pensions Reminders

Now through October 13, employers (churches) can model and build employer agreements (offer of benefits) for 2018. Go to pensions.org for more details.

October 13 is the deadline for employer to offer employer agreements.

October 30 - November 17 - employees make decisions and accept benefits offered. This is an open enrollment period for employees to get into dental plan or other options offered by the Board.

Important Note: All benefits will not automatically be rolled over. Only the pension, medical, and death and disability will be rolled over. If a pastor is enrolled in the optional dental plan, it will not be rolled over without completing an employer agreement. The hope is that all churches will fill out an offer of benefits and all pastors and employees will make decisions on the employer agreement.

Call to Health has been extended until November 17. There is still time to earn points for a lower deductible and for \$100.00 Amazon gift cards.

For more information go to pensions.org or call Board Resources at 1-800-773-7752.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--**Jen Evans** from Charlotte, NC is the new Director of Youth, Young Adult, and Young Family Ministry at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and began duties on August 27. **Blake Tierney** has completed work there with young adult ministry and moved from Little Rock. **David Mills**, an inquirer in ministry, was honored on Sunday morning, Sept. 10, as he concluded 13 months as interim Director of Youth Ministry at Second Presbyterian.

--Ruling Elder **Mary Shaw** of Rogers has completed her six years as missions coordinator at United Campus Ministry at UofA, Fayetteville. She continues as the Director of Christian Education at First, Springdale.

--**Cathy Sayes** has completed her nine years as financial secretary at Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista and is moving with her family from the area. **Sandy Andrews** has retired after 7 years as the chancel choir accompanist at Bella Vista church. **Sharon Golaway** is the new pianist, and **Maureen Arigi** is the new financial secretary.

--**Leigh Woodruff Harvey**, a member at First United, Fayetteville, is the new guest group director at Dwight Mission Camp and Conference Center, Vian, OK.

--**Rev. David Dyer**, honorably retired, of Little Rock was honored in Presbyterian Village's "Focus on the Foundation" newsletter for volunteering at the retirement complex for 31 years. He now leads a Bible study on Friday afternoon for residents. David is stated supply at Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Jared Brown** is now the full-time new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Rev. and Mrs. Heinrich Eiler** have moved from Hot Springs Village to Altoona, WI. He is an honorably retired minister member of the presbytery.

News of Our Congregations

--**First, Malvern** congregation celebrated their 135th birthday on August 20 after worship with finger foods and birthday cake.

--**United Campus Ministry** at UofA, Fayetteville welcomed new and returning students Aug. 14 with lunch and "open house" and then hosted First Monday (of classes) lunch during the solar eclipse on August 21.

--**First, Yellville** held worship in pavilion on Sept. 10 after Sunday School resumed that

morning.

--**First United, Fayetteville** plans an all-church retreat Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at Dwight Mission Camp and Conference Center.

--**First, Springdale's** Thursday Night Book Group begins on Sept. 14 to discuss "Luke's Gospel from Scratch."

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** men's group enjoyed breakfast and an indoor/outdoor workday on August 19.

--**First, Benton's** eight-week class on Exploring Denominational Beliefs was so popular it resumed Aug. 9-23.

--**First, Mountain Home** is celebrating 70 years of ministry on Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17. General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith will be present both days and will be bringing the good news message on September 17th. This three-part celebration process began in July when they looked to the past to revisit their original ministry. The second part has been to take a closer look at the various ministries they are currently doing to serve the Lord with God-given gifts, talents and resources. As the final part of the celebration on September 16th they will be leaning into the future and begin discerning where God wants them to focus their gifts, time and talents.

--**First, Van Buren** children are gathering monies to purchase the cleaning supplies for flood buckets to take to Ferncliff's Disaster Assistance Center, in response to TX flooding.

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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.

FALL IS IN THE AIR!

And that means back to school (including Sunday School), Presbyterian Women's Bible study circles, men's meetings, the rhythm of the school year and, yes, for many congregations TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS AND DEACONS.

Just a reminder that the new **BOOK OF ORDER 2017-2019**, Part II, of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is out and available for purchase (or to preview on loan from YOUR Resource Center). The *Book of Order* is available as a CD-ROM, including part I of the constitution the *Book of Confessions* (containing the Belhar Confession), Braille, large-print (looseleaf), as a download on the church's website at www.pcusa.org, in an annotated version (CD-ROM) with notes on changes and interpretations made since reunion in 1983, historical summaries and GA Permanent Judicial Commission decisions, and as an E-book for Kindle. It is, of course, available in regular print and in English, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, and Portuguese from the PC(USA) Church Store. Please plan to use the new, current *Book of Order* in your leadership training and make the book available to interested church members through your church office or library.

All of the proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* passed the votes of a majority of the presbyteries last year so you can check out the bold type changes in the new edition. One recurring and widespread change that is quickly apparent is the return from the title of Teaching Elder for ministers to the former language of "Minister of the Word and Sacrament." The title of Ruling Elder for those elders serving on local sessions and the title of Commissioned Ruling Elders for those commissioned to lead congregations in particular pastoral service were not changed.

More training for ruling elders is available in one convenient location, the website at www.pcusa.org/rulingelders. It offers updated lists and links to current trainings, books, videos for both elders and ministers. "**Regarding Ruling Elders: A Monthly Series for Spiritual Leaders**" is offered in English, Spanish and Korean with devotional pieces, invitations to spiritual practices and other resources to nurture elders' spiritual life. Current and archived issues of the former series which focused on the responsibilities of elders within church life are available. To become a part of the ruling elder email list and receive notices about articles, events, opportunities and new materials, provided your contact information at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/network-ruling-elders/>. Experience has shown that congregations are strengthened and enriched by well-prepared and knowledgeable ruling elders in service.

YOUR Resource Center is pleased to help you prepare for the training to be offered to new and continued ruling elders with a variety of resources. We are in this ministry together!

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

JR. HIGH YOUTHQUAKE! September 22-24, 2017 Ferncliff Camp

Sixth through ninth graders from around the Presbytery and their Adult Advisors will be gathering at Ferncliff September 22-24 for a weekend of fun, friends, and faith! Please pray for this group of young people, their adults, and the leadership of this event to have a smooth and spirit-filled weekend!

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, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.)

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The University of the Ozarks is hosting a free outdoor concert on their campus mall on Friday, September 22, 2017 at 6:00PM featuring MATT MAHER, CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN SINGER/SONGWRITER.



Eight-time Grammy nominee Matt Maher has become a staple in the artistic and song-writing community. The Canadian-born contemporary Christian music artist, songwriter, and worship leader has garnered multiple radio successes writing and recording songs such as "Lord, I Need You," "Hold Us Together," "Christ Is Risen," "Because He Lives (Amen)" and "Your Grace Is Enough." In 2015, Maher was awarded Dove Awards for Songwriter of the Year and Worship Song of the Year. He has penned songs recorded by Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Third Day, Matt Redman, Hillsong, Casting Crowns, Jesus Culture, and Bethel among others. He has written and produced eight solo albums to date. Three of his albums have reached the Top 25 Christian Albums Billboard chart and four of his singles have reached the Top 25 Christian Songs chart. Maher has written or co-written five No. 1 radio singles. In a 2013 career highlight, he performed in Rio de Janeiro before Pope Francis and a crowd of three million people. In 2015, Maher was awarded his first RIAA Gold certification for "Lord, I Need You." His latest release in 2015, "Saints and Sinners," is a call for social justice rooted in the work of historic faith leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Art as a Spiritual Practice at Lyon College, Batesville

This past semester campus ministry at Lyon looked into creative ways to experience the Lenten journey. Thanks to a wonderful group of ministers at A Sanctified Art, we were able to do just that. We talked about the various reasons we were in need of Lent and ways we could meditate, explore, and reflect throughout the season as a community. We set up a coloring calendar that had corresponding scriptures, reflections, and prayers for each section of the calendar. There were additional prayers and poems that went along with the reflections to help students reflect and meditate. This spiritual practice became a powerful ritual for the community throughout the Lenten season, helping guide us step by step towards the cross. As we neared the end of the Lenten season and the students were finishing up the coloring calendar, they wanted a way to remember such an important piece to their journey this past school year, so we decided to have the calendar framed and placed in the campus ministry house. Now the artwork is on display, a visual reminder of the journey we took together as the Lyon community. The students are already thinking of other ways to use art and this type of reflection in worship and other ministry events.

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BULLETIN FROM MISSION OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA: EVANGELISM GRANTS AVAILABLE

Four grants of up to \$400 each are being offered to congregations desiring to improve upon or create avenues to evangelize. These grants can be for signage, advertising, a website or website improvements, a special invitation to your neighborhood to attend worship, etc. You have good news to share in your communities, and with the help of a grant from the presbytery, you can do it.

To apply, contact the moderator of Mission of the Church Ministry Area by email: ktpearson@suddenlink.net. Please include in your email a brief description of the project, how much the whole project will cost, how much (up to \$400) is being requested, and how specifically the funds will be utilized. Requests should be authorized by the local church Session. If you have questions, you may contact CRE Kelly Pearson. The deadline to receive requests is December 1. Ideally, if your congregation has applied for and received a grant to attend NEXT Church or Big Tent conferences or a grant from the Unified Mission Emphasis in 2017, you might allow other congregations to apply.

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Presbyterian Village Capital Campaign

The Village Foundation is pleased to announce that Presbyterian Village was selected as a recipient of the 2017 Thank Offering Grant of the Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA). The grant award of \$50,000 will convert 10 traditional bathrooms in Residential Care to accessible, walk-in showers to promote greater resident independence and dignity. This grant award also counts toward fulfilling the Mabee Foundation Challenge grant, which the Village received earlier this year. This is the first-ever grant award of the PW (PCUSA) to the Village. Please join us in celebrating and giving thanks for their support. For more information about this PW grant, renovation plans at the Village, or the Mabee Challenge, please contact melissajenkins@presbyvillage.org.

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Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot--November 8th

You can help boys and girls at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services and earn a cool T-shirt by being part of the Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot 5K events. You are invited to learn how to change the life of a child in need by being part of the Turkey Trot Celebration Dinner or Turkey Trot 5K.

Turkey Trot Celebration Dinner

Wednesday, November 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church

4401 Woodlawn Drive

Little Rock, AR 72205

Tickets available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), search for Turkey Trot

Turkey Trot 5K run/walk and one mile fun for kids

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m.

One mile fun run immediately after 5K

**Annie B. Wells Campus of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services
745 Old Warren Road**

Monticello, AR US 71655

Tickets for the Celebration Dinner or registration for the Turkey Trot 5K are \$25.

Visit VeraLloyd.org or call 501-666-8195 for more information.

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Presbytery-Wide Mission Trip to Lake Village, AR

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

When: October 23-27 (Monday-Friday)

What: We will be replacing insulation, wall coverings, sheet rock, flooring, painting, etc.

Where: We will be housed in a home in McGehee, AR. There will be showers, toilets, and full cooking facilities. We will be working in Lake Village

Cost: \$50.00 for the week. Deadline to register (with payment) must be received by Thursday, October 9, 2017.

Supplies: Bedding (sleeping bag, sheets, blanket, pillow), work clothes, gloves, shoes, toiletries, flash light, bug spray, sunscreen, lawn chair

Other ways to help: Make a donation to the mission trip. [Make check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church (reference: Presbytery Mission Trip; 3819 Central Ave.; Hot Springs, AR 71913)]. Share the brochure ([click here](#) for a downloadable copy) with someone who might be willing and able to participate. Pray for those they are seeking to help.

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Scholarships for Small Church Leaders

Do you serve a small congregation? Would you would like to connect with other Presbyterian mission leaders but your budget says, "no?" The Outreach Foundation Small Church initiative is offering 10 scholarships to small churches for the Connecting Mission Leaders Conference in San Antonio, October 26-28, 2017.

About the conference:

Connecting Mission Leaders: A Conference for Presbyterian Mission Leaders

October 26-28, 2017
First Presbyterian Church
San Antonio, TX

Join mission leaders at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio for the fourth Connecting Mission Leaders conference. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn, meet other mission-minded people, network with friends, and "fill your cup."

In addition to dynamic plenary speakers, great worship and music, and invaluable networking opportunities, the conference will offer nine unique and informative workshop sessions.

Friday Session 1 Topics: Business as Mission (BAM); Every Church Engaged in Church Planting; Engaging Millennials in Mission Panel

Friday Session 2 Topics: Our Biblical Mandate: Ministering to Immigrants and Refugees; Small Churches in Mission - Make no excuse!; Reaching Muslims Here - Right where You Live

Saturday Session Topics: Connecting with the Church in Egypt; Mission and Money Matters; Finishing the Task--But How?

For more details, and to register for the conference, visit this link: <http://smallchurch.connectingmissionleaders.com/>.

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Presbyterian Women's Fall Gatherings, Interfaith Retreat Mission Project, Gift for UofO Garden

Co-Moderators of Presbytery of Arkansas PW Coordinating Team, Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers have released the schedule and contacts for cluster fall gatherings as follows:

Saturday, September 16th: Cluster 2 - First Presbyterian Church, Morrilton
Contact: Judy Calhoun 501-354-4735

Saturday, October 14th: Cluster 4 - Faith Presbyterian Church, Horseshoe Bend
Contact: Patty Minga 870-530-4576 22003parrot@gmail.com

Note: geographical bounds for PW clusters are different from presbytery's geographic bounds for regions

The PW at the Interfaith retreat tied 18 blankets as their Mission Project. They were delivered to the Nature Pre School at Ferncliff Camp



Pictured are Vicki Erickson, Maryann Sweeney, and Nancy Ortman from the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; Jenny Higgy, Ferncliff Nature Pre School.

Presbyterian Women's Polytunnel Gift to Aid Food for Thought Garden

Published May 8, 2017



The donation of a polytunnel by the national Presbyterian Women (PCUSA) will allow the University of the Ozarks' Food for Thought Garden to double its already impressive production, according to University officials.

The polytunnel is being donated through a competitive Thank Offering Grant of \$7,000 by the national office of Presbyterian Women, located in Louisville, Ky. The polytunnel will be erected this summer and will allow garden coordinators to regulate temperature, moisture and ventilation in a portion of the garden, thus extending the growing season.

According to Arkansas GardenCorps service member and 2016 Ozarks graduate Nena Evans, the garden produced nearly 600 pounds of produce during the 2016-17 academic year. She said that total could double once the new polytunnel has been in place at least a year.

"We will be able to extend our growing season into the late fall and early spring months, while school is in session," Evans said. "That means more fresh produce for our community and for the schools, which is a great benefit."

The Food for Thought Garden donates one-third of its produce to the local schools through their backpack programs, which provides fresh vegetables and fruit to low income families. Approximately 165 children in the Clarksville School District have benefitted from the

program during this school year. Some of the produce is also donated to local food pantries.

"This year we're going to donate more than 230 pounds of fresh produce to the backpack programs and food pantries in Johnson County," Evans said. "In the past it's been more difficult to get the produce to the schools because there is very little overlap between the growing season and the school year. The polytunnel will allow us to have more fresh produce during the school year."

"Several classes incorporate the garden in their curriculum and the extended growing season will allow more students to get hands-on training and knowledge," Van Scoy said. "It will be a tremendous addition to the Food for Thought Garden, to the University and to Johnson County."

University of the Ozarks has been affiliated with the Presbyterian Church since it was established in Cane Hill, Ark., in 1834.

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First Presbyterian--Fort Smith Presents King Lectures (September 17th):

First Presbyterian--Fort Smith presents Sarah Bessey as their King Lecture speaker on September 17th in Fort Smith.

10 a.m. Session: Making Peace with an Evolving Faith

Join us as author and speaker Sarah Bessey explores the importance of curiosity, evolution, and transformation in your relationship with God. With warmth and humour, Sarah reminds us that rather than being afraid of our doubts and questions, we can embrace them with trust, faith, and welcome. Based on her best-selling book "Out of Sorts" this talk leaves the light on for those who are wandering or wondering in their faith.

4 p.m. Session: Joy As Resistance

In times of struggle or fear or despair, is Christian joy a useless practice? A way of sticking our head in the sand to pretend everything is fine? Or is there something more to the discipline of rejoicing right in the teeth of our fears and despair. In this session, author and speaker Sarah Bessey shows us how our joy can be part of our resistance to fear and despair in these days.

For a brochure with more information, [click here](#).

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Mark Your Calendar:

Pilgrimage Coming: October

This fall, the foliage will make your Pilgrimage experience even more memorable. The fall Pilgrimage is October 19-22. Mark your calendars now, and make your reservation (below).

When you attend your Pilgrimage, you experience the love of Jesus Christ as lived out in practical ways. You learn practical tools for walking the Christian path day-by-day. You sing with joy, taste good food, and you laugh out loud. AND, you have a chance to experience all of this away from the day-to-day cares of the world.

"It felt like a preview of Heaven," a participant said about their Weekend.

Each Pilgrim comes for his or her own reason. Some come for a "retreat" from the world's cares; others participate to reconnect with Jesus. Some come just because they've heard it was fun. Whatever the reason, almost everyone who has attended their Pilgrimage has reported they were so glad they came.

All costs except room and board are donated by volunteers. Room and meals cost \$200 for the three-day Pilgrimage, but scholarships are available upon request. (Arkansas Presbytery helps support these scholarships.)

To register online, or to learn more, just go to the Pilgrimage website, at www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2017 can be found [here](#).

Prayer List for Congregations -- 2018 can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)

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