

March 2018

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Transformative Change"

Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

My youngest son (age 22) recently accepted a new position with a company here in Little Rock. The work environment is something that is totally foreign to my limited knowledge and history of the secular workplace. I worked in the corporate world for six years after graduating from college. We were expected to work from 8:00 until 5:00 - with a very strict one hour lunch break. As an exempt employee, I was expected to put in overtime hours when needed without extra compensation. Dress slacks with a dress shirt and tie was the expected male "business attire". I received two weeks of vacation per year and if I stayed with the company for 10 years that moved to 3 weeks. This was standard and what I expected when I entered the work force.



This new company my son is working for has a much different philosophy of work environment. They want to create an environment where employees enjoy coming to work instead of dreading it. The dress code is very casual -- shorts and t-shirts are common. The work hours are very flexible. Ping-pong tables are in the office. Adult beverages are in the refrigerator. The NCAA tournament games will be on the television as "March Madness" begins. There is not a vacation limit. Employees just ask for time off when needed. At each anniversary year of employment, employees are given \$1,000.00 and encouraged to take a trip out of state with that money.

This freedom in the workplace is something that would have been unheard of 30 years ago. My thought is, "where are the rules? People will take advantage of this." And yes - some do, but my guess is those who take advantage of this freedom aren't kept around for long. This is a transformative change in the work environment that many companies are trying.

J. Herbert Nelson, our stated clerk for the PC(USA), wrote an article in this week's (March 13) issue of The Presbyterian Outlook titled "Overcoming our fear of transformative change in the PC(USA)." He writes, "I believe that the most significant problem that we are facing at the national church level today is the belief that the corporate model of leading the church is the best leadership model. However, this model has proven to be an impediment to the transformation of our denomination for many years." It is difficult for us to imagine a different way for educating, training, examining, and calling pastors than how we have done in the past. We had rules and regulations for a process that worked well when most of our congregations had resources to call a full-time pastor. Times have changed dramatically since I began my ministry some 25 years ago. I continue to see this tension play out over "how we

have done things in the past versus how we need to change our ways for the current situations we face." Transformative change is tough. We know the corporate model. We know the rules and procedures. It is frightening to venture out and try something new, especially since we are not sure what that new way or venture might be. But we are faced with situations such as immigrant fellowships and pastoral leadership in small, rural congregations that need a new and different approach.

This year, the Mission of the Church Ministry area will sponsor "The PLACE", an educational event that will deal with the topic "The Changing Face of the Church." We do not have sessions that provide answers, but we will wrestle together with challenges and opportunities before us as a church. There will be two dates and locations, April 7 at First United Presbyterian in Fayetteville, and August 4 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. I look forward to seeing some of you at either or both events and I continue to be thankful to be partnered with you in ministry as we seek to "make visible the body of Christ" in this beautiful part of God's creation in which we live.

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 2019. 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>.

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.

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock seeks an *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.

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock is searching for a part-time *Director of Young Families* to work with the Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adult, and Young Family Ministries. Applications are being accepted for this new 10 hour a week position that is full of opportunities of growth and a lot of fun. We hope to find an energetic and creative person with the strong leadership and interpersonal skills necessary to equip and nurture Christ-centered relationships between families with young children and the greater community. The position description can be found at www.secondpreslr.org. Please share this information with potential candidates!

Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City is searching for a full-time pastor. The church is right at 100 members, with average attendance of 41 members. Desired experience is Solo Pastor/Head of Staff with 5-10 years of experience. Graham Memorial is a welcoming community of faith that seeks to serve Jesus Christ through sharing our collective talents, proclaiming the Gospel, feeding the hungry, and ministering to our community. For more information, visit the church's Facebook page or contact the PNC through Nancy Dunaway via email jdunaway@arkansas.net or phone 870-261-3330. The MIF can be viewed on the CLC website.

The First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro is looking for a Transitional (Interim) Pastor, either full or part time. For more information contact Sandra Puryear, Clerk of Session, at srpuryear93@gmail.com.

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Office Hours for Staff Resource For Youth

Our new Temporary Staff Resource for Youth, Hannah Lahodny, works at Ferncliff during the day. We want to honor Hannah's commitment to the work and ministry of Ferncliff by not intruding on her work during the day. We ask that you NOT call Ferncliff to visit with Hannah about Presbytery of Arkansas business.

Hannah will be available for questions, conference calls, Zoom meetings, etc. on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm and at other times as needed. If you need to reach her by phone, those hours would be preferable. Or -- if you need something sooner, you can email or text Hannah and set up a time that will not conflict with her Ferncliff work schedule.

Hannah's email address is: hlahodny@gmail.com. Her phone number is 501-680-9321. We welcome Hannah to the presbytery staff!!!

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Cameron Highsmith Ordained to Ministry as Chaplain

An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery ordained Cameron Highsmith to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in a validated ministry as a chaplain at UAMS, Little Rock on Sunday, March 11, at First, North Little Rock. He also serves as parish associate in that church. Members of the commission are shown below:



Back row, L to R: MWS Steve Hancock, RE Karen Howard-Lange, MWS Leslie Bethell Roper

Middle Row, L to R: MWS Anne Russ, MWS Cameron Highsmith, RE Sandra Malin, RE Sarah Leer

Front Row, L to R: MWS Stewart Smith, RE Sam Highsmith

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People and Church News

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

--Christian sympathy goes to the family and friends of **Rev. James Patterson Fleming**, 84, who died on March 6, 2018 in Homestead, FL. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A native of Baltimore, MD, Jim graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC; Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA; and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA. With wife Libby and three adopted children, Jeff, Wendy and Laura, he ministered in churches in Georgia, Maryland and Florida before arriving in Arkansas in 1986 for his last pastorate at First, Clarksville. In this presbytery Jim committed to Committee on Ministry, Committee on Education, Committee on Nominations, General Council and as a board member of the Ozarks Area Mission and a cluster representative. After retiring and Libby's death, he married Jeanne Haney and served as stated supply at First, Huntsville. In recent years they returned to the Homestead, FL area where he enjoyed his children and grandchildren. He will be interred at Blowing Rock, NC.

--Christian sympathy goes to the family of **Jeanie Leffingwell Schneider**, 61, who died on Feb. 9, 2018 in Rogers. She will be remembered as the Hunger and Peace Enabler for the Presbytery in the 1990s. Her memorial service was held at First, Bentonville, where she was a member.

--**Rev. Alan Ford**, honorably retired, has moved from Newport, where he pastored First Presbyterian for 35 years, to live in Russellville near family members.

--**Commissioned Ruling Elder Kelly Pearson**, serving at First, Dardanelle, has announced his retirement, effective September 30. He is moderator of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area of the presbytery.

--**Rev. Kris Crawford**, who pastored two congregations and was transitional pastor of several in this presbytery, is now serving as a hospital chaplain in the Dallas area.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** has compiled a 40-minute video of 2017 church life for their website and now plans a columbarium.

--**First, Dardanelle** Maundy Thursday service will include a simple meal and worship with communion.

--**First, Springdale's** Wednesday night Lenten study on the Psalms features different media of art for all ages with a meal and study.

--**First, Hot Springs** observed Boy Scout Sunday on February 4.

--**First, Fort Smith** plans a tour to explore Presbyterian heritage in Switzerland July 30-August 14.

--**Central, Russellville** is converting their acolyte room into a Prayer Room for devotional and meditation time and opened the library every Tuesday evening for 30 minutes beginning Feb. 20.

--Choirs from **First, Bentonville and First United, Fayetteville** will join to sing an English cantata on Palm Sunday night at Bentonville and on Good Friday night in Fayetteville.

--University of the Ozarks, Clarksville's choir will sing Friday night, April 6, for the informal service and Sunday morning, April 7, for the traditional service at **Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village**.

--**First, Conway** plans the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, March 29, with storytelling by the costumed characters and musical interludes from the choir.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** donated over 200 cans of soup and many other non-perishable foods on Souper Bowl of Caring, and their youth delivered those to **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** to distribute through Grace's monthly evening food pantry.

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.

LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR THE TIME BETWEEN EASTER AND PENTECOST?

A new print series "**Six Themes Everyone Should Know**" on the study of Scripture has been released from PC(USA) Congregational Ministries Publishing and is available for loan from YOUR Resource Center. The studies "offer a central feature of church adult educational programs" with "flexibility and accessibility" that offers short-term studies to introduce biblical books and their main themes through six chapters, each with an introduction and three major sections. The sections ask: What does this biblical theme mean? What is the meaning of this theme for the life of faith? What does this theme mean for the church at this historical point for action?

For those new to Bible study (and every church has and should welcome these newbies), the first study in the series "**Six Themes in The Bible Everyone Should Know**" is a wide-angle look at the whole of Scripture. Chapters include: The Great Arc of Creation; Creatures of God: Finite and Flourishing; Creatures of God: Mutually Dependent; Creatures of God: God Does Not Clone; Sin and Redemption: God Doesn't Go Back; and Sending, Gathering, Sending Again: The Heartbeat of the Mission of God.

One study from each of the testaments is now available for preview and use. "**Six Themes in Genesis Everyone Should Know**" by W. Eugene March. Before the six chapters of the six themes begin, the author presents a helpful single page "Biblical Backgrounds to Genesis" on the name of the book, theological themes and the book's structure. The chapters include: The Beginnings: God as Good and Caring Creator; The Dependability of God; Divine Vulnerability and Human Choice; The Mystery of Divine Presence; The Indirect Directing of God; Divine Providence; Temptation and Assurance along with suggestions on group gatherings, glossary and "want to know more?"

"**Six Themes in Matthew Everyone Should Know**" by James E. Davison offers in the introduction a single page "Biblical Backgrounds to Matthew" on author and date, composition, and importance. The six chapters center on: Embracing Jesus as

Messiah, Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven, Fleeing Evil, Following Jesus, Living Close to the Scriptures and Welcoming All.

NEW CONFIRMATION RESOURCE

"Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding," the long-time adult curriculum series from Congregational Ministries Publishing of the PC(USA), has issued "**Embraced and Embracing Workbook: Exploring the Foundations of Confirmation**" for leaders and congregations preparing young people for confirmation. Seven sections cover: Who is Confirming Who or What?, From the Baptized Roll to the Active Roll, Affirming the Covenant, Promises to Keep, Words Need Help: Body Language; It's about Faith, a Gift of the Spirit and For Parents and Children. Sessions for group study and suggestions for further study are also offered.

On a personal note, I have announced my intention to retire from the presbytery staff effective on Monday, October 1, 2018. It has been my honor and privilege for over 19 years to serve as the Presbytery's Resourcing Director, and by turns as Assistant Stated Clerk, Recording Clerk, Interim Associate for Christian Education, Staff Resource to several committees (and now ministry areas), certification advisor and advocate for the presbytery's Christian Educators, reporter/writer/proofer/editor of "The Banner" newsletter, keeper of part of the institutional memory, and myriad other duties. On Easter Sunday I will celebrate 30 years in Christian Education service to local congregations and the presbytery. Now at 68, I hope to spend more time with grandchildren and great grandchildren, volunteer occasionally in the Presbytery office and pursue other interests. The Resource Center Advisory Board is considering ways to support the ministry of Center moving into the future, including welcome volunteers.

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

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events and Trips sponsored by the Youth Advisory Team

Sr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) - April 13-15, 2018

Trip to PC(U.S.A.) General Assembly (St. Louis) - June 15-21, 2018

Jr. High Jubilee (Mo Ranch, TX) - June 30-July 5, 2018

Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC) - July 21-28, 2018

(These dates are also posted at www.presbyteryofarkansas.org under "Ministries," then "Youth Council.")

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 Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.)

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE P.L.A.C.E. 2018

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE CHURCH

Offered by
The Mission of the Church Ministry Area
of the Presbytery of Arkansas



The P.L.A.C.E.* 2018

***The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment (The P.L.A.C.E.) is providing two unique opportunities for persons seeking to learn and grow to join with others facing the challenges and opportunities of the changing face of the church.**

SAVE THE DATE!

The P.L.A.C.E. NW on April 7, 2018,
9am—1pm, First United Presbyterian
Church, Fayetteville, AR

The P.L.A.C.E. Central on August 4,
2018—Second Presbyterian Church,
Little Rock, AR

Registration for the April 7th session ends on Wednesday, March 28th. To download the complete packet of flyers, information about learning sessions, and

registration forms, [click here](#).

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PILGRIMAGE: Consider This Three-Day Renewal of a Lifetime!

A Presbyterian Pilgrimage Weekend is not just "another retreat". No, it is a part of a personal spiritual journey. At a Pilgrimage, you can experience a deepened relationship with Christ, which can continue growing - and last a lifetime.

At Pilgrimage people often:

- meet Christ "face-to-face";
- better understand Christ's love, grace, forgiveness; and
- become even more alive in their faith;
- gain a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

But there's more: Weekends are a lot of fun, too!

Will you prayerfully consider attending the Presbyterian Pilgrimage this spring, April 19-22 ?

You can find out more, and register in 5 minutes, at www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org. The cost is \$200 for lodging and meals, but scholarships are available, so don't let cost be a barrier!

For a flyer/application, [click here](#).

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MISSION GRANTS AVAILABLE TO CONGREGATIONS

Mission of the Church Ministry Area again encourages congregations to submit grant requests for this last year of three of the Unified Mission Emphasis: helping the "most vulnerable of the very young and old." These might range from a diaper drive to treats for nursing home residents. If you have some project to launch or one to keep afloat, consider applying for a grant of up to \$500 with Mission of the Church. This may be done by emailing: ktpearson@suddenlink.net. Include in the request: the

purpose of the program/project, proof of Session approval, the overall cost of the ministry, the amount desired for the grant, and how the grant money, if received, would be utilized, as specifically as possible. Two grants have already been awarded.

CENTSABILITY RECIPIENTS NAMED FOR 2018

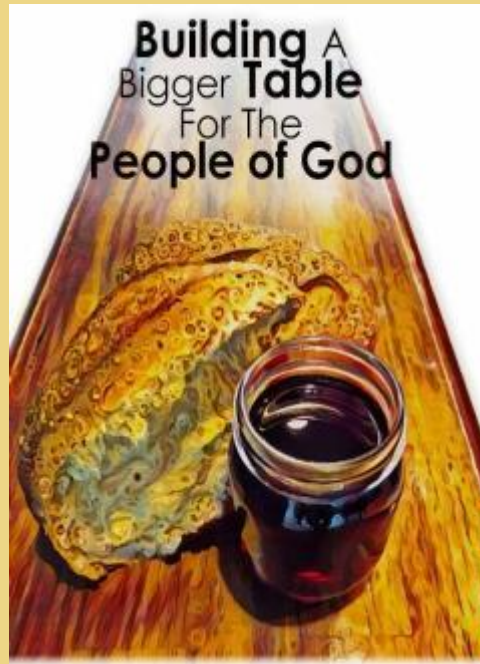
If your Presbyterian Women's group or full congregations participate in the gathering of 2 cents a meal during the year for the alleviation of hunger, you are part of the support for the Centsability Offering. The Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of Arkansas has informed Mission of the Church ministry area that the Centsability Offering of 2018 will be divided three ways as follows:

- Local--the Arkansas Community Soup Kitchen in St. Francis County--led by Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City;
- National--Southeast Texas Food Bank--to assist with feeding individuals and families which sprang as a need after Hurricane Harvey;
- International--A Miracle Porridge--to assist with a feeding program in the Congo, Africa of many malnourished children, that also teaches mothers of these children how to make the porridge.

Thank you for your support!

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YOU ARE INVITED TO MO-RANCH'S WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCE



Greetings, Presbytery Friends! My name is Mary Ibis, and I'm the Associate Director of Music at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. I'm also the conference director for this year's Worship and Music Conference at Mo-Ranch. I'm very excited about this year's conference. We have an amazing group of clinicians and a worship team that includes dynamic and eclectic leadership sure to challenge, motivate, move, and empower an inclusive community to awesome and holy praise.

I want to take just a moment to personally invite you to attend this year's conference. It is important for our planning team that ALL God's children are invited to this conference. In particular, this year we are focusing on making the conference as inclusive for people of differing abilities and diagnoses as possible. With Alzheimer's, dementia, ADD, ADHD, sensory processing, physical mobility, hearing and or vision impairments and dietary restrictions that keep people from attending conferences and continuing education events like this, we want you to know... we are preparing to welcome everyone! There are several ways we are providing accommodations and offering assistance to those who have special needs. Please look at our conference brochure online at: <https://www.presbymusic.org/mo-ranch>

If you happen to be a person who is temporarily abled, I'm certain that there are members in your congregation who are dealing with a diagnosis or challenge on a very real and personal level. Helping you look for ways to expand inclusion in your home congregation is just one more way this conference will benefit everyone. I hope to see you at the Ranch this summer. Please contact me directly if there is anything I can do to help you get to this conference. If you have any questions, or are looking for more specific information on how you or a loved one might travel to the Ranch and be cared for during this time, please call or email me directly.

Come to the table, we are building a space just for you.

Blessings,
Mary Ibis, Conference Director
lbis2018mopam@gmail.com
501-412-1416, cell

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Announcing "Sharing The Goods"

Planning any renovations or upgrades to your facilities? Before you head off to Home Depot check out www.sharingthegoods.org. It is a new ministry at Ferncliff that shares low cost home improvement goods with churches and nonprofits. Product selection varies according to the donations they receive. Currently they have quite a few: kitchen and bathroom sinks, faucets, bed pillows, comforters, flooring, bathtubs, toilets and curtains. Nonprofits you serve are also eligible to become members at no cost. Some of the churches that have already benefited include Westover Hills, Second Presbyterian, First Arkadelphia, First Jacksonville, Memorial Presbyterian in Atkins, and First NLR. Email djill@ferncliff.org for more info.

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Presbytery Office Closed Tuesday, March 20th

Due to Spring Break, the presbytery office will be closed Tuesday, March 20th. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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It's Not Too Late to Pledge for 2018 Benevolence

It's not too late for congregations to send in pledges for 2018 Benevolence. You may mail it to the Presbytery office at 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd.; Little Rock,

AR 72227. You may also email your pledge to Kenneth Rich at kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org or Stewart Smith at stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org

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Do You Have News for the Banner?

If you have something you would like us to consider for inclusion in the Banner newsletter, please send it to: kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org, niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org, and stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org. We cannot guarantee your submission will be published, but we will do our best to include what we can.

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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 STAFF:
General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)
Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)
Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)
Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)
Interim Staff Resource for Youth [HANNAH LAHODNY](#)
Staff Resource for Vital Congregations [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [LESLIE ROPER](#)
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [RUTH HAMILTON](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID STRICKLIN](#)

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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 10,000 Presbyterians gathered in 83 active churches, 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