



August 2018

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

In this issue:

(Click on the link below to jump directly to an article, or scroll/page down to read the entire Banner from beginning to end)

- [Stewart Smith: After the Fire](#)
- [News from Westminster Presbyterian -- Little Rock](#)
- [Steve Frazier Installed as Kirk Pastor](#)
- [Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service](#)
- [News of Our Congregations and Our People](#)
- [NiAnn Thompson: Resource Center News](#)
- [News for Presbytery Youth](#)
- [Presbyterian Pilgrimage Coming In October](#)
- [Evangelism Grants Available From Mission of the Church](#)
- [Presbyterian Women Important Dates](#)
- [Mission Teams Needed](#)
- [Honduras Mission Trip Information](#)
- [Do You Have News for the Banner?](#)
- [Presbyterian Prayer List](#)
- [Presbytery Calendar](#)
- [Staff Contacts](#)
- [About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

After the Fire

By General Presbyter Stewart Smith

I learned about the tragic fire at Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock, on a cruise ship while in the Caribbean Sea. I was without internet or cell service, but my children had purchased a "social media only" package for a reasonable fee.

My son had seen the post on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Facebook page on Friday afternoon the day after the fire. I had about 36 hours to ponder the gravity of the situation before I made it back to New Orleans and had cell phone service. David Dyer, who is the pastor (Stated Supply) at Westminster, was also on vacation. While I was unaware of the fire for several hours and then unable to respond for a couple of days, David's vacation was interrupted immediately and often by numerous phone calls, emails and text messages.



I want to thank those who responded to this crisis so quickly. Bill and Liz Branch were at the scene while the fire trucks were still there as a presence from our presbytery's Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee. Leslie Belden and NiAnn Thompson crafted and edited an announcement that Kenneth Rich sent out the following day to the presbytery. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responded with an emergency grant of \$5,000 to assist with immediate needs. Several churches offered to let Westminster use space in their facility. By the time David and I had returned to Little Rock, Westminster Presbyterian Church had received offers for help and prayers and well wishes from all across the country. It was really gratifying to see the outpouring of concern from our connectional church.

Many have asked about the plans for Westminster going forward. The congregation is meeting in the Arch Street Fire Station which is convenient to where most of the members live. Below is the picture of the chancel area on their first Sunday after the fire. David Dyer has shared an article in this edition of **The Banner** that addresses their plans and also expresses gratitude from the congregation for the outpouring of support. You will read of their sensing new possibilities and a new vision as they ponder their future and what God will lead them to do and where that will be. Our prayers and support continue to be with them as they begin this new journey.



Our new phone system is operational. I thank you for your patience during this longer than anticipated transition and know that some of you had a very difficult time getting in touch with us while the system was down. Our provider is Ring Central and it is a VOIP system (Voice Over Internet Protocol). The phone number (501-663-2424) and the fax number (501-224-2429) have remained the same. If you ever have trouble reaching the office, please use my cell at: 479-466-0195.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who worked to make "The PLACE" a very successful event. Over 100 Presbyterians gathered at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on August 4 to explore together "The Changing Face of the Church". Twenty nine churches were represented as people came from as far as Bentonville, Fort Smith, Yellville and Wynne. Twenty-five ministers and church educators were in attendance. Fourteen leaders led workshops after a worship service and opening keynote. There was an incredible warmth of fellowship and spirit enjoyed by the participants, just as there was at "The Place" that occurred in April in Northwest Arkansas. Thanks to the Mission of the Church Ministry area and all who worked very hard to plan and host these wonderful events.

Together we are the Presbytery of Arkansas and we continue to attempt to "make visible the body of Christ" in this beautiful part of God's creation in which we are

blessed to live and work. I am thankful to be partnered with you as we seek to be faithful to our calling.

Stewart

[Back to the top of this email](#)

News from Westminster Presbyterian -- Little Rock

"Grace, mercy, and peace from God..." With these words each Sunday the people of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Little Rock gather for worship. Since the fire of July 19th which burned the church to the ground, these words have a deeper and richer meaning for us.

First, we learned of grace, for no one was seriously hurt in the fire. Many dear things were destroyed, but no lives were lost; and that is a gift of God's grace. Even more than that grace, though, is a deepening awareness among the people of Westminster that we always live under God's grace, receiving gifts we can neither earn nor deserve on our own.

We have also seen God's mercy after this fire. God's mercy has brought a new vision of the possibilities for the church in South Pulaski County. We have begun to receive a new vision of mission and ministry to our community. We have also received the mercy of much support from many directions; from the community around the church in the form of the gracious offer of the Arch Street Fire Station and its Chief Harvey Durham of space in which to worship every Sunday for as long as we need and the mercy of the prayers of people and other churches in the Presbytery of Arkansas, as well as offers of assistance in many forms. Pulaski Heights Presbyterian loaned us hymnals until our new replacement ones arrived. The Youth who were at Montreat when the fire happened sent a beautiful graphic to hang on our wall (when we have one). Some have sent funds, which are much appreciated. Cards and notes have come from all over the Presbytery and our whole denomination. Perhaps most moving of all, the First Presbyterian Church of Madison, Kansas has donated a pulpit, a lectern, a communion table, a piano, an organ, chancel chairs and other sanctuary furnishings toward the time when we will have a new beginning in a new location and building.

It is that promise of a future for the congregation that gives us the deepest sense of God's Shalom, God's peace. It is not a peace of passivity, but one of energy and excitement, as we look to discern the future of a renewed church entering into a new era of mission and ministry. This congregation, chartered in 1899 is not over, for God

is not finished with us yet.

Your prayers and support have given us these gifts from God, of grace, mercy, and peace; and on behalf of the whole congregation I offer a sincere, "Thank you." We did not know that a fire could bring blessings, but it has, for it has reminded us that we are always in God's love and also in yours. - David H. Dyer, minister, Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Frazier Installed as Pastor of Kirk of the Hills



The above Administrative Commission of the presbytery installed Rev. Steve Frazier (center) as pastor of Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay on Sunday afternoon, July 8:(from left) General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith; piper Doug Young; Rev. Carol Clark, honorably retired; Elder Wendell Phillips; Rev. Frazier; Elder Vernie Holdman; Elder Peg Falls-Corbitt; Elder Scott Rezabek; Rev. Bob Hadley, honorably retired.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Opportunities for Our Presbytery

"Sing the Faith" softback hymnals. 83 copies of this blue softback hymnal published by Geneva Press in 2003 is free for the taking from Christ Presbyterian Church in Terra Linda, CA. The church administrator there, formerly from Little Rock, is willing to box them and pay the shipping charges to send them to any church in our presbytery. Contact Mary Marcom at 415.479.2712

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service

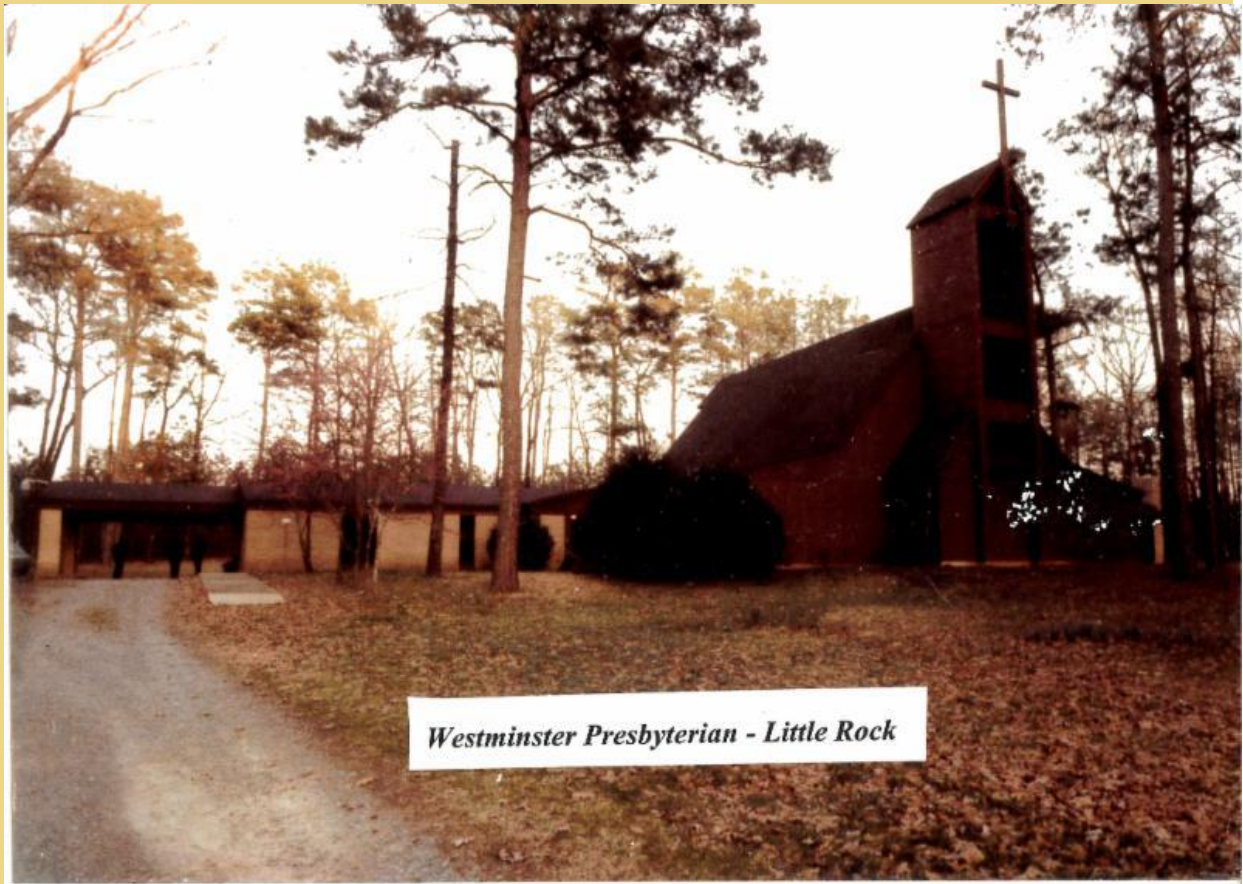
Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees or subcommittee beginning in 2019. To download the current form, [click here](#).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

People and Church News

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

WESTMINSTER, LITTLE ROCK BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRE



On Thursday evening, July 19, **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, organized in 1899, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. The Presbytery of Arkansas mourns with the 16 members of this historic church at 1325 John Calvin Drive, Little Rock.

Westminster Presbyterian was located just west of Interstate 530, south of Little Rock. It is a very beautiful setting at the end of John Calvin Drive. There is a huge quarry that is visible from the interstate that swallowed up most of the land adjacent to the church. The church consisted of a sanctuary, fellowship hall and two wings of classrooms and offices. It was a comfortable facility in a retreat-type setting, well-maintained by a faithful and committed group of members. The Presbytery grieves along with them the loss of this beautiful facility and asks that all continue to remember in prayer the congregation, Session, and Stated Supply Rev. David Dyer, honorably retired.

--**First, Batesville's** Christmas in July includes purchase of age-appropriate Bibles for nearly 100 children the church supports from the Angel Tree Program.

--**United Campus Ministry, UofA, Fayetteville** asks all congregations and youth groups with students coming to UofA in August to contact summer intern Alex so that the new and returning students may be invited to the first Monday lunch on August 20 and dinner/discussion on August 23.

--**First, Van Buren** Food Pantry signed up 34 new households for a total served of 488 homes and 1,486 individuals.

--**First, Benton** pastor Rev. Dari Rowen, a commissioner from this presbytery, wrote her newsletter front page from the plenary space of the General Assembly meeting in St. Louis in June.

--**First, Mountain Home** is developing a questionnaire so the congregation can identify needs and wants for pastoral care.

--**First, Rogers** uses monetary donations given at church luncheons to benefit the deacons' outreach projects.

--**First, Hot Springs** is collecting new undies and socks for children and teens who are residents of the Ouachita Children's Center.

--**Synod of the Sun Sunday** is coming up on August 26, a rare chance for the congregations in the four-state region (AR, LA, OK, TX) to get the same message. Congregations can celebrate the mission and ministry of the Synod with litanies, children's bulletins, bulletin inserts and suggestions for children sermons available at synodsun.org/synod-Sunday

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** has begun a Young Adult Devotional and Podcast Club for which they listen to 30-minute podcasts, then gather in the youth building every other Monday night for devotional and discussion.

--Newsletter of **Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** included this month cartoons, list of new library books and synopsis of one, reprinted article from "Presbyterians Today," puzzle and recipe.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

--Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Rev. Park Moore**, 93, who died on August 3 in Little Rock. He was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Son of Park Sr. and Lucile Marks Moore of Decatur, GA, Park graduated from Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary. During World War II, Rev. Moore served on a US Navy destroyer in the Pacific and later as a USNR Chaplain. Ordained in 1950, he served pastorates in Grover and Gastonia, NC; Jackson and Meridian, MS; and as an associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, from 1983 until his retirement in 1990. In the Presbytery, Park was a commissioner to Synod and a member of Committee on Ministry and Committee on Witness.

He is survived by his wife of almost 69 years, Betty Jean Combs Moore of Little Rock; children Rodney (Terry) Moore of Reedsport, OR; Janie Rash and Aileen Moore of Little Rock, and two grandchildren of Little Rock, and one of New York City, NY. A sister, a niece, and two nephews also survive.

A memorial service was held at Second Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr, Little Rock, AR 72227, or a charity of

your choice.

--**Carol Cannon** is the new Administrative Assistant at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--**Rev. Randy Hyde** was honored at a reception on July 29 as he completed service as transitional associate pastor for Congregational Nurture at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.



--**Eileen Joyce** (pictured above) was recently honored with a Presbyterian Women's Lifetime Membership at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Shirley and Rev. Gordon Garlington** of North Little Rock on the death of her mother Elvia Richardson, 94, in Fredericksburg, TX on July 22. Shirley is a deacon at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock and Gordon is honorably retired minister member of the presbytery, former presbytery moderator, and now the clerk of the Mission of the Church Ministry Area.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Rebecca and Randy Spooner** of Conway on the death on Aug. 3 of Rebecca's mother Louise Westbrook McGowan, an elder and deacon in the PCUSA. Her service was on Aug. 11 at First, Gainesville, GA. Rev. Spooner is the director of Wellspring Renewal Center in Little Rock.

--Congratulations to **Rev. Leslie and Ted Belden** of Fayetteville on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Anna Claire Ward, on August 6 in Little Rock. Proud parents are Mary and Coleman Ward. Leslie is Temporary Stated Clerk, and Ted is moderator of the Future of the Church Ministry Area and a former moderator of Presbytery.

--Congratulations to **Aileen Moore**, business manager at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, has completed the process of training as a certified church administrator.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 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.

--We have several copies of the 2018-2019 **Presbyterian Planning Calendars** still for sale in the Presbytery Office at \$13.00 each. Could you use another one in your home, church office or study or for elders and other church staff?

--Numerous VHS tapes of **good Bible studies are available** from YOUR Resource Center for the taking. Several are from the "Book by Book" series, the "Standard Bible Study" series, sets on Corinthians and New Testament Themes by Dr. Kenneth Bailey, "That the World May Know" series by Ray Vander Laan and single videos on various books of the Bible. Some of our congregations and individuals still prefer this medium so until September 10, these may be picked up at the Resource Center, first come, first served. After that date, they will be donated elsewhere.

--New curricula for fall has arrived! **"The Present Word"** quarterly dated Bible study to explore biblical texts and deepen relationship with God continues to be a staple for adult classes. **"Feasting on the Word: Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary"** PC(USA) curriculum for Adults and 'Tweens is popular with churches that follow the lectionary. The dated materials by Westminster John Knox Press for older children in grades 5 and 6 includes a teacher's guide with resource sheets and a color pack to engage the tough faith questions. **"Big God, Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith"** is the new PC(USA) material for 7th graders and up to help young people explore their faith journey and articulate their faith in Jesus Christ. **"Growing in Grace and Gratitude"** is the PC(USA) children's curriculum for ages 3-5 with accompanying "Stories, Colors and More" and multiage 5-10 with accompanying piece. This material teaches the Bible story through activities, prayer and song as children celebrate the meaning of grace in their lives.

--On a personal note, thank you continue as my retirement approaches on October 1. Thank you to my colleagues on staff through 19-1/2 years: five General Presbyters, six Stated Clerks, eight treasurers, three Associate General Presbyters, three youth staff and several clerical/financial/technical people. Appreciation goes to the many local people who have faithfully served on the Resource Center Advisory

Board and to the 18 moderators of presbytery and 12 moderators of committees/ministry areas that I have resourced as well as over 100 committee/area members which whom I have pursued ministry. Gratitude continues next month!

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

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Presbytery organized and sponsored groups of youth and adults from our congregations to Mo-Ranch Junior High Jubilee (June 30-July 5) in Texas and Montreat Youth Conference (July 21-28) in North Carolina



Presbytery of Arkansas' Mo-Ranch Junior High Jubilee attendees



Presbytery of Arkansas' Montreat Youth Conference attendees

**Upcoming Youth Events and Trips
sponsored by the Youth Advisory Team**

**August 17-19: Youth Advisory Team Planning Retreat
(at United Campus Ministry--U of A-Fayetteville)**

**(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.)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Presbyterian Pilgrimage Coming: October

Why do people go on their Pilgrimage? Well, there are several reasons a person might go:

- * A chance to get away from "the world" and hear the still, small voice of God;
- * For those who constantly serve others and need a break, it's a chance to "be served" by others;
- * Some may feel a little "stuck" in their spiritual journey, and come to be able to hear God's voice more clearly, so they know more clearly what their next step(s) might be;
- * Some might be struggling with grief or guilt, and just need to be able to hear - loud and clear - the love of God;
- * Some, honestly, may come just for the fun of it (and it is a fun time).

This fall, at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, the foliage should be beautiful. The fall Pilgrimage is October 25-28. 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.

All costs except room and board are donated by volunteers. Room and meals cost \$200 for the three-day Pilgrimage, but confidential 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.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

EVANGELISM GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM MISSION OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY AREA

Six grants of up to \$400 each are being offered to congregations desiring to improve 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 Commissioned Ruling Elder Kelly Pearson, moderator of Mission of the Church Ministry Area, by email at 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 the funds will be specifically utilized. Requests should be authorized by the local church Session. If you have questions, you may contact Elder Pearson. The deadline to receive requests is Friday, November 30.

Ideally, if your congregation has applied for and received a grant from the Unified Mission Emphasis in 2018, you might allow other congregations to apply.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

ATTENTION: Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas

MARK THESE DATES for these upcoming important events!

Questions? Contact Ila Blackketter-Wolfe at ila.nb.wolfe@gmail.com or Cathy Rogers at ccrogers86@gmail.com.

Fall PW Gatherings Across the Clusters of the Presbytery

Cluster 1: Friday, August 24th -- First, Springdale Presbyterian Church (Registration: 8:45). For more information, [click here](#). For information on the Ingathering Offering for the "Snack Shack," [click here](#).

Cluster 3: Saturday, September 8th -- Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs (Beginning at 9:00). For more information, [click here](#).

Cluster 4: Saturday, September 15th -- First Presbyterian (Walnut Ridge) -- Registration at 8:30. For more information, [click here](#).

Cluster 5: Saturday, August 25th -- Park Hill Presbyterian (North Little Rock) -- Registration at 9:30. For more information, [click here](#).

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Women Gathering

July 25 - July 27, 2019

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma

More information to come!

[Back to the top of this email](#)

MISSION TEAMS NEEDED

**Crawford County (Mountainburg) Tornado Recovery
Home Rebuild Fact Sheet**

Mission work teams are needed to help with a house rebuild and to build access to

the two replacement homes in Mountainburg, AR as a result of the April 2018 tornado. Mission teams or individuals can contact Byron Mann at vim@arumc.org if they want to be a part of this recovery effort by volunteering. Note: Mountainburg will need lots of help on the finish work.

Opportunities to serve:

On site stand-up date, TBA
(20-40 volunteers needed)

Ongoing finish work until completed
(volunteers needed at any time available)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

Honduras Mission Trip -- September 29-October 6

There is still time to sign up for the Honduras Mission Trip. Contact Leigh Woodruff at 479-601-1437 or leigh.woodruff@yahoo.com for more information, or you may [click here](#) for an updated flyer with more information.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

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

Prayer List for Congregations -- 2019 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).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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 Mission Discernment [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [LESLIE ROPER](#)

Moderator of the Coordinating Team [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID STRICKLIN](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)



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 82 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