



September 2018

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Presbytery Meeting Details

By General Presbyter Stewart Smith

The 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas will be held at beautiful **Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center** on **October 19-20, 2018**. This will be the first time for Ferncliff to host an overnight meeting of the presbytery. Since we do not have the usual volunteers from a host congregation to assist with some of the details, members of the Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village will join forces with the Ferncliff staff to serve as our hosts for the meeting.



Since Ferncliff is located about 10 to 15 minutes away from the restaurants in West Little Rock, it is imperative for us to make reservations for meals. You can make those reservations

here: <https://form.jotform.com/82476737884172>

and the link can also be found on the presbytery website (presbyteryofarkansas.org) under the "Presbytery Meetings" Tab.

Meals: We are hoping to incorporate some of the fun traditions of the summer camp experience at this meeting. The presbytery will host an outdoor picnic (weather permitting -- inside the dining hall if inclement weather) for those who would like to eat dinner on the grounds before the meeting begins on Friday evening. We will eat hot dogs and hamburgers (the traditional last meal at camp!) for those who want to come early and enjoy fellowship with other Presbyterians and the beauty of Ferncliff. This will be hosted by members of Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village and will be held from 5:15 until 6:15 before the gavel at 6:30. Cost of this meal will be \$5.00.

Saturday breakfast will be included in the cost of lodging for those who are staying at Ferncliff. For those staying in Little Rock, you can either eat breakfast at your hotel or have light pastries and coffee that will be available that morning at registration.

Lunch will be available at Ferncliff on Saturday for \$10.00 per person. Remember, if you prefer leaving Ferncliff for fast food options, you are looking at 25 minutes of roundtrip travel time.

Again, because of the distance to area restaurants, we are asking everyone to please make reservations for any meals you wish to eat at Ferncliff. Please make your reservations soon at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presbytery-meeting-lodging-tickets-48654705534>.

Lodging: For those wanting to stay at Ferncliff there are a couple of options available for you. The Brown Center has 36 hotel type rooms available at \$99.00 for

a single room or \$56.00 per person for double occupancy (sharing a room). For those who would like the true experience of summer camp, you can stay in one of the climate controlled cabins for \$25.00. You would need to bring your own linens, towels and toiletries. A buffet style breakfast is included in the price and will be available only for those staying at Ferncliff. Reserve lodging soon at Ferncliff by clicking here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presbytery-meeting-lodging-tickets-48654705534>

If you wish to stay in West Little Rock I would suggest using the internet travel site of your choice and stay at one of the hotels in West Little Rock. There are plenty of options within 20 minutes of Ferncliff.

Childcare: Members of the Kirk in the Pines church are available to provide childcare for the meeting, but we must have a reservation in order to staff a nursery. Make a reservation soon for childcare here. <https://form.jotform.com/82476737884172>

Pre-Presbytery Workshops There will be several options for those who can arrive early on Friday afternoon. The locations for the workshops will be given in the presbytery packet.

Social Media for Your Congregation: 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Ruling Elder Dave Buck from 1st Presbyterian Church in Springdale will discuss ways your congregation can have a stronger presence on social media and get your message out to a wider audience. He will have options for all sizes of congregations.

Encouraging Giving in Your Congregation: 3:30 -5:00 pm
Michael Erwin, former member of our presbytery and current executive director of Church Campaign Services will lead a workshop on how to encourage giving within your congregation.

Missional Tours of Ferncliff: You can tour the grounds of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center and see that Ferncliff is much more than a conference center or a summer camp. Ferncliff is a year round outpost for mission. Among the sites you will see during the tour will be the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Center, The Good360 warehouse, and the ECO center which houses the Solar Under the Sun School. Tours are limited to 25 people and one will be offered at 3:30 and another one at 4:15. To reserve a spot on a tour or for a workshop click here. <https://form.jotform.com/82476737884172>

Orientation to the Presbytery Meeting: 5:15 - 5:45 pm
Have you ever felt overwhelmed by attending a presbytery meeting? Have you ever felt like there was insider knowledge and language and process that you didn't understand?
General Presbyter Stewart Smith will lead a commissioner orientation session prior to

the presbytery meeting. It is designed for first-time commissioners or infrequent commissioners to help them feel more comfortable with the terminology, background on issues that are being discussed, and the process (Robert's Rules of Order) that guides our discussion. We will either eat dinner while we talk or will have time to eat before the meeting begins at 6:30.

We look forward to seeing you in October!! In the meantime, if you have any questions about the meeting please feel free to contact me at the Presbytery Office (501-663-2424) or on my cell phone at 479-466-0195.

Stewart

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News from Westminster Presbyterian -- Little Rock

The blessings that have flowed to Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock since the devastating fire in July have been without number and have lifted up and encouraged our small congregation.

First and foremost have been the prayers, which have come to us from all across the denomination and the presbytery. The encouragement of people and other congregations have come to us in notes, letters, and gifts, financial and in kind. The gift of pew Bibles from the Kirk in the Pines in Hot Springs Village is one of the most precious to us.

We have shared worship each Sunday at the Arch Street Fire Station and will be resuming our Wednesday night Bible Study in September there. Almost every Sunday has brought visitors and friends to worship with us, including ministers from the presbytery and two visits from our General Presbyter Stewart Smith (and his wife, too!). The meeting room is turned into a sanctuary space through the use of green Celtic cross banners and the music, played by musician Kathy Goodwin, lifts our spirits each week.

The Session is working through the process of selling the former property and looking for a new, more visible and engaged location. Dreams and visions of a new building and expanded ministry are part of our careful planning process and have given a renewed energy to the congregation.

As pastor, I have been blessed to be with these faithful people and to welcome new people and friends to the community of the congregation. We are thankful for the support, spiritual and tangible, which we have received and we trust that such faithful support will continue. As I have said before, "God is not done with us yet."

David H. Dyer, minister

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Opportunities for Our Presbytery

Applications are being accepted at **Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock** for a **Director of Families with Young Children**, a 10-hour per week position. This new team member will work with the Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adults, and Families with Young Children and other part-time teammates that work with youth and young adults. We hope to find a faithful person with the 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!

"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.

Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church seeks the accompaniment edition of The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990). Please call Cindy Saul at 879-421-0881 or email: cindysaul@gmail.com

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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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People and Church News

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

--Christian sympathy is extended to the family of **Rev. Charles "Chip" Andrus**, 51, a former minister member of Presbytery of Arkansas, who died on Sept. 9. Pastor of South Salem Presbyterian Church north of New York City, "Chip" had been a member of First, Arkadelphia and was a former pastor of First, Harrison. He returned to AR in February, 2017 to explain proposed changes to the Directory for Worship in the Book of Order to the presbytery commissioners. A service in celebration of his life will be held at South Salem Presbyterian Church, Sunday, September 15, at 6:00 pm.

--Congratulations to **Marie and Justin Boardway** on the birth of daughter Gwendolyn "Gwen" Jaycee Boardway on August 22, 2018. Marie is the administrative assistant at First, Bentonville.

--Two minister members of the presbytery have authored books. **Rev. Sally Johnson**, honorably retired, wrote a novel "After Yesterday," and **Rev. Robert "Bobby" Williamson, Jr.** wrote "The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today." Both reside in Little Rock, and both books are available on Amazon.

--**Claire Rhodes** was elected to the board of the Presbyterian Foundation at the summer meeting of General Assembly. She is a commissioned ruling elder serving West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia and a former moderator of presbytery.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** will send their first team on Sept. 21 to Walk for Cancer Research and their Safety Ministry maintains a list of members who are medical professionals.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** is feeding the school bands from Arkansas Tech and Russellville High as part of their back-to-school ministry.

--**First, Arkadelphia** participated in welcome events on campus for new and returning students at Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University in mid-August.

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** is helping with the reunion of three children with their parents who are church members from Cameroon, Africa.

--**First, Harrison** is starting feast groups of 8 to 12 people who will meet once a month to get acquainted, then reshuffle the groups next year.

--**First, Jacksonville** celebrated communion every Sunday in August as they heard sermons in worship on the Gospel of John's account of Jesus feeding and Jesus understood as the Bread of Life.

--**Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** choir is regularly taking their hymns and anthems to homebound church members.

--**First, Huntsville's** newsletter included a financial profit and loss comparison of the

first half of 2018 to last year's first half.

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock's** deacons designed a new policy requesting members or their families allow or prohibit sharing of specific health concerns in their regular email Careline to the full congregation.

--**First, Hot Springs** will cohost the Whittington (Avenue) Block Party on the evening of October 6 with neighboring Baptist and Roman Catholic Churches for fellowship, food, music and games.

--**Pulaski Heights, Little Rock** enjoys potluck fellowship meals after worship on the last Sunday of the month and will collect one of the PC(USA) special offerings, Peace and Global Witness, on World Communion Sunday, October 7.

--**First United, Fayetteville** had their First Free Lunch on Sept. 9 at which, after worship, young adults from UofO gather to fellowship and go out to eat as guests of church members who love to support students.

--**United Campus Ministry** welcomes Dr. Ronnie Prevost from Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista to lead discussion on the Lord's Prayer each Thursday for dinner and discussion.

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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?

In my last column for the Resource Center before retirement, I will attempt to explain how the Resource Center under the direction of its board will function in the short term, subject to decisions Presbytery may make after hearing recommendations from the Staff Design Task Force in October. Rev. Carol Clark, honorably retired, and

Elder Marian Dyer, long-time member of the Resource Center, are graciously volunteering several hours a week in the mornings, Carol on Monday and Marian on Wednesday, and I will volunteer a couple of times a month. Resources will only be mailed out on those two days, but the Resource Center is open every weekday from 8:30 to 4:30 for walk-in visitors. Requests submitted through the online catalog on the presbytery website will be checked weekly. My email of niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org may be disabled, but watch for one for the Resource Center when the new website is up and running. Phone messages will be re-directed next month so the most efficient way to communicate is by email or the online catalog.

Gratitude is my attitude for the privilege of working with so many wonderful people in congregations, large and small, thriving and struggling, but always faithful. The Presbyterian Church (USA) is not perfect, nor is this part of it known as the Presbytery of Arkansas. Yet I have literally seen a thousand examples of people grateful for the love and grace of God in their lives and eager, diligent and hard-working to encourage babies, toddlers, children, teenagers, active adults, retirees and the dying to experience and pass on that same love. It has been the joy of my life to share 20 years with the people and leaders of our churches here in the Resource Center. I have been blessed here also as Assistant Stated Clerk, Recording Clerk, Interim Associate for Christian Education, Staff Resource to Committees and now Ministry Areas, certification advisor and "mother hen" to our Christian Educators. And now I pray blessings to one and all and Godspeed.

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

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Register Now for the Montreat College Conference

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY



The campus ministries within the Presbytery of Arkansas are organizing a trip to the Montreat College Conference and want to invite all college-age persons in the Presbytery to join us for this great conference. [Click here](#) for more information and a registration form for trip details, costs, and how to register and share it with the college-aged persons in your congregations and help them get signed up to go with us! For more information, contact Jeremy Wilhelmi (Chaplain, University of the Ozarks) at jwilhelmi@ozarks.edu or 804-767-0812.

Save The Date -- Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Purdue University, July 16-20

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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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.

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LECTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Cotham Lectures -- Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock

Dr. Eric D. Barreto, the Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Cotham Lectures to be held at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 23rd & Monday, September 24th.

Eric will preach at the morning worship service (10:30 am) and will deliver lectures at 7:00 pm on both Sunday and Monday evenings. Westover Hills will also offer a luncheon for area clergy and educators on Monday, September 24 that will feature a question and answer session with Dr. Barreto. The event is free but please call the church office (501) 663-6383 to make a reservation.

For more information [click here](#).

King Speaker Series -- First Presbyterian, Fort Smith

Sunday, September 30th, the King Speaker Series will present author and speaker, **Kaitlin Curtice**. Kaitlin is a Native American Christian author, speaker and worship leader. As an enrolled member of the Potawatomi Citizen Band and someone who has grown up in the Christian faith, Kaitlin writes on the intersection of Native American spirituality, mystic faith in everyday life, and the church. Her recently released book, *Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places*, is available in the church office.

Kaitlin will speak at 10am and at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Clabaugh Lectures -- First Presbyterian, Bentonville

Please join us for our annual Clabaugh Lectures Series -- The **Rev. Dr Andrea C. White**, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York and Executive Director of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Rev. White will speak **Sunday, October 7th at 6:30 pm**. The title of her lecture is: "**God and the Loud Silence of Race Talk**" -- Opening the church to speak and do racial justice. A reception will follow the lecture.

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

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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.

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ATTENTION: Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas

MARK THE DATES for this upcoming important event!

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

**Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Women Gathering
July 25 - July 27, 2019**

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma
More information to come!

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Presbyterian Village News

Presbyterian Village, under the direction of **Chaplain Stacey Hammons**, is now offering a Mid-Week Devotional time in the Chapel each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The quiet time features prayer, reflection, and remarks from the Chaplain or another member of the Community. The mid-week devotional is another offering in addition to weekly Sunday Chapel services and resident Bible studies.

Presbyterian Village is hosting a **Chili Cook-off Competition Thursday, October 18** at 5 p.m. We are looking for spirited chili teams--Winning chili teams will receive cash prizes of \$125, \$75 and \$50!

If your congregation, Sunday School class or other group would be interested, please let us know. Tickets to the event are also now on sale. Contact Melissa Jenkins at MelissaJenkins@presbyvillage.org for more information about the team competition or to attend.

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Save The Date -- Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot!

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' Annual Turkey Trot is fast approaching on Saturday, November 17th. This 5K walk and 1 mile family fun run takes place at our Monticello children's home. It has become one of the largest in southeast Arkansas, and supports the needs of children who have been abused, abandoned, neglected or simply lost their way. Please visit Vera Lloyd's website event page (www.veralloyd.org) or register at: <https://runsignup.com/vlturkeytrot>.

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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](#).

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).

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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](#)

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](#)

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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 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