



**December 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: "Crowded Schedules"](#)

[Ward Rudolph Installed at First Presbyterian--Searcy](#)

[John Arnold Installed at First Presbyterian--Walnut Ridge](#)

[Opportunities for Our Presbytery](#)

[Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service](#)

[Resource Center News](#)

[News for Presbytery Youth](#)

[Ferncliff's Winter Camp is Only Seven Days Away](#)

[Presbyterian Women Important Dates](#)

[Year-End Contributions to the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

[Do You Have News for the Banner?](#)

[Presbyterian Prayer List](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

## "Crowded Schedules"

General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith

One of the things that I have learned about mid-council work is that when the schedules get busier in the churches, the schedule at the presbytery office slows down. As we have begun Advent and move closer toward the celebration of Christmas, the schedule at the presbytery office will begin to move at a slower pace. The **office will be closed** the week of Christmas through the New Year's Day holiday (**December 24 - January 1**). But please know that I will be available if a need or question arises. The office phone system kicks to our cell phones so please feel free to call if you need assistance.



When we get to January, the demands on the schedule will increase dramatically. The Coordinating Team has been busy recruiting those who will represent us with a couple of major tasks that are before us as a presbytery. A leadership group consisting of a representative from the five ministry areas (Church and its Mission has two representatives--one from COM and one from COPM) and the elected leaders of the presbytery will begin their work towards implementation of the three priorities that were re-affirmed at the June presbytery meeting. An overnight retreat will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on January 11th and 12th. The group will be led by Tom Verdery, ruling elder from First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville who brings years of experience as a consultant in working with both "for-profit" and "non-profit" groups of various sizes. Tom his donating is time and talent to the presbytery and we are grateful for his leadership.

The Coordinating Team also recruited and named a search committee that will search for the positions that were presented by the Staff Design task force and approved at the October presbytery meeting. The Coordinating Team met on December 1 to prayerfully identify the names and the calls have been made and the committee will be ready to get started at the first of the year. I am pleased to report that all who were called accepted and said "yes" to serve for this very important task.

This is a moment of opportunity for us as a presbytery. My hope and prayer is that we will be patient as we transition toward new staff members and that we will be flexible and willing to embrace the ideas that come from the implementation team working with the consultant. This is important work that will need to be prioritized that

will come as an addition to our already crowded schedules.

As we get to the close of the year, we can look back and see that we have welcomed several gifted colleagues during the year. Seventeen congregations have brought in new pastoral leadership in various forms in 2018. We have fourteen gifted colleagues working with our Committee on Preparation for Ministry as either inquirers, candidates or those preparing for CRE service. Our congregations have been faithful in their giving and we should end 2018 "in the black". We will certainly need for that faithfulness to continue in 2019 as we have raised our budget to "beef up" the budget for the Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Area.

In the midst of a challenging time in the church, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for in 2018 and we have the opportunity for new and exciting possibilities as we move into 2019. I am grateful for the many people who give of their time beyond what is needed in their own congregations and busy schedules to contribute to the ministry that we do together in the Presbytery of Arkansas. I continue to be grateful to be a partner and colleague in ministry with each of you. I pray that in the busyness of your crowded holiday schedule, that you will find the time to experience the hope and joy and peace of Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you!!!

*Stewart*

**Presbytery Search Committee**

Steve Hancock, MWS -- Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock  
Teresa Spragins, DCE -- First Presbyterian Church, Conway  
Richard Freer, RE -- First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro  
Georgia Senor, MWS -- First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville  
Led Davis, RE -- First Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs  
Hannah Hanson, Young Adult -- Grace Presbyterian Church, Little Rock  
Bill Bailey, MWS -- Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

**Priority Implementation Team**

Kade Curry, MWS -- Springdale, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Julie Gillaspy, RE -- Conway, Administration  
Jeremy Wilhelmi, MWS -- University of the Ozarks, Youth, Young Adult and Campus  
Peg Falls-Corbitt, RE -- Conway, Future of the Church  
Kristi Button, DCE -- Fayetteville, Mission of the Church  
D. C. Adams, MWS -- Harrison, Committee on Ministry  
Stewart Smith, MWS -- General Presbyter  
Leslie Belden, MWS -- Temporary Stated Clerk  
David Stricklin, RE -- Moderator of Presbytery (2019)  
Leslie Roper, MWS -- Moderator of Coordinating Team (2019)  
Marion Humphrey, MWS -- Vice-Moderator of Presbytery (2019)  
Ruth Hamilton, RE -- Outgoing Moderator of Coordinating Team (2018)

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

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## **Ward Rudolph Installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian--Searcy**

On November 4th, 2018, Rev. Ward Rudolph was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Searcy, Arkansas. Below is a photo of Rev. Rudolph and the installation commission:



From left to right: Rev. Leslie Bethell Roper, Moderator of Presbytery; Rev. David Dyer; RE Mike Szabo; Rev. Dari Rowen; Rev. Ward Rudolph; RE Wendell Phillips; Rev. Carol Clark, HR; RE Mary Ellen Holder.

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

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## **John Arnold Installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian--Walnut Ridge**

On November 11th, 2018, Rev. John Arnold was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Below is a photo of Rev. Arnold and the installation commission:



RE Tom Moore, MWS Leslie Bethell Roper, Moderator of the Presbytery; MWS Bill Seitz; RE Lee Bennett; MWS John Arnold; RE Patty Minga; MWS Patty Schaller; MWS Bill Branch

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

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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](http://www.secondpreslr.org). Please share this information with potential candidates!

### **Youth Director at Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock for 2019**

Our church is looking for the right (part or more time) person to help us accomplish God's will in this place! Dynamic and energetic individual needed to organize and lead weekly Sunday afternoon gathering for middle and high school youth. Goals include building relationships, community and teamwork while developing Bible Study, Fellowship and Service/Mission opportunities. Occasional worship leadership. Will also attend local church youth events/conferences.

Other possible duties for the appropriate candidate include: teaching youth Sunday School, assisting with VBS and confirmation, coordinating youth worship and local mission projects; leadership in recruitment, fundraising and outreach. The ideal candidate is capable of planning and implementing curriculum across a wide range of child and adult education needs and becoming a key player on staff. May include

continuing education and professional development opportunities; Christian Educators are encouraged to apply. Approx. \$15-20/hr or salary as negotiated; room to grow, all applications reviewed, can be combined with other positions as appropriate, interviews begin in November.

Send resumes and for questions please contact [parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net) or call 501-753-9533.

**First Presbyterian Church Dardanelle Searching for New Pastor:** Long-time pastor, Kelly Pearson retired from First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle at the end of September. The Session is searching for a new pastor. The position will be part-time with details to be determined in discussions with interested individuals. For more information, contact Donna Partain, Clerk of Session ([dcpartain@msn.com](mailto:dcpartain@msn.com)) or Cathy Baker, Ruling Elder ([cathybaker54@yahoo.com](mailto:cathybaker54@yahoo.com)).

**Mountainburg Presbyterian Church Seeks Pastor:** Mountainburg Presbyterian Church seeks a solo pastor who is enthusiastic about spreading the Word of God in the pulpit as well as the community by words and example, helping Mountainburg Presbyterian Church to reach its vision and mission goals. The pastor would help to build the congregation and lead the church's programs that are currently in place. This minister would bring continuity to the outreach programs that the church participates in and would bring healing comfort to the sick and shut-ins by visitation. For more information, visit the church's listing on the Church Leadership Connection website: [click here](#).

**Music Director at Park Hill Presbyterian Church, North Little Rock for 2019**  
Our church is looking for the right (part or half time) musician to lead us into God's future! The successful candidate will: have 3-5 years' experience leading church music with a BA in music or equivalent, rehearse and lead choir, play the piano and/or organ with performance-level proficiency, support contemporary and traditional music in worship, be excited about starting intergenerational and children's choir opportunities, possess good interpersonal and communication skills and be interested in growth.

A great candidate may also: accompany choir during rehearsals and Sunday worship, rehearse and lead hand bell choir, interest in intergenerational chime choir, maintain instruments and music library, have interest in professional development and staff leadership. Salary range \$11,000-21,000 as experience/duties and negotiation allows; all applications reviewed, can be combined with other positions as appropriate, interviews begin in November.

Send resumes and for questions please contact [parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net) or call 501-753-9533.

**"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](mailto:cindysaul@gmail.com)

**Organ for sale** -- Marilyn Steele of First Presbyterian, Mountain Home has an organ for sale. The organ is a D. H. Baldwin model D-912. It is approximately 23 years old, and has been regularly maintained and serviced over the years. For more information, contact Marilyn at 870-425-1292.

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

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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](#).

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

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## **Resource Center News**

### **PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE**

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas).

### **THE RESOURCE CENTER**

FIND YOUR PLACE for LENT/EASTER AT OUR RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center board is excited to invite everyone to a mini-P.L.A.C.E. event on **Sunday, January 27, from 3pm-5pm at the Presbytery Office (9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd. Little Rock, AR)**. Drop in for some delicious snacks and a chance to browse through (and borrow) materials.

At 3:30pm, Rev. Carol Clark who has led worship workshops at other P.L.A.C.E. events, will share ideas for the upcoming Lenten/Easter season. What a great opportunity to get a jump on this most important time for worship and reflection. Each attendee will receive a gift from the Resource Center, and there will be a drawing for several Lenten resources.

In the meantime, if you need resources, please email Carol Clark ([cbclark05@aol.com](mailto:cbclark05@aol.com)) or call the Presbytery office which will transfer you to her answering machine. Carol and Marion Dyer will gladly mail resources to you or drop by the resource center to borrow thought-provoking books, DVD's, children's activity books, study series, elder training aids and more! To search for materials, go to the Presbytery's website, click on resources, then resource center, then to the left on search the catalog.

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

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

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## Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Registration is OPEN for all three summer trips with the Presbytery of Arkansas! You can download the information and registration materials here.

This year we are organizing the following summer trips:

**Jr. High Jubilee (Hunt, TX):**

**July 6-11, 2019:**

Current 6th-8th graders

Registration deadline: February 28

**2019 Triennium (Purdue University)**

**July 15-20, 2019**

Current 8th-12th graders

Registration deadline: February 15

**Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC):  
July 20-27, 2019**

Current 8th-12th graders  
Registration deadline: February 28

Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery?

"Like" us on Facebook!

Search

PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry

on Facebook,

or go to

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Ministries with Youth, Young Adults, and Campus Ministry.)

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

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# Ferncliff's second annual winter is camp is just 3 days away!

[Winter Overnight Camp: 12/20 -12/23 for grades 5-12](#)

[Winter Day Camp: 12/21-12/23 for grades 1-6](#)

Winter Camp is a great chance for kids to enjoy some outdoor fun during their holiday break from school. Both overnight and day campers will get to enjoy their favorite camp activities, such as archery, low ropes, arts & crafts, fishing, hiking, visiting the farm and garden, making s'mores over the fire, and more!

All the fun of camp . . .

Winter Camp includes all your favorite camp activities, a Christmas-themed Bible study, and wintry activities that you could never do in the summer!

Check out [our website](#) for more information.

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

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**ATTENTION: Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

MARK THE DATES for this upcoming important event!

Questions? Contact Ila Blacketter-Wolfe at [ila.nb.wolfe@gmail.com](mailto:ila.nb.wolfe@gmail.com) or Cathy

Rogers at [ccrogers86@gmail.com](mailto: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!

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

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**Year-End Contributions to the Presbytery of Arkansas**

Please note our offices will be closed December 22, 2018-January 2, 2019. If you would like a contribution to be counted toward 2018, please make sure it is postmarked no later than December 31st. Thank you for your continued, faithful support!

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

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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](mailto:kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org) and [stewart@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto: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](#)

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

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(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](#)

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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**PRESBYTERY STAFF:**

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)

Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)

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