



February 2019

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Kinship"

General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith

While we search for new staff, I am serving as the staff resource for the Youth Advisory Team. I experienced a wonderful weekend with this dedicated group as they met to plan for the youth events in 2019. I was very impressed by their initiative and focus and how well they worked together to make decisions. I left thinking that I wish all of our committees could operate with this type of efficiency!!

While planning for the Youth at Presbytery event, (March 1,2 at University of the Ozarks) the planning team for that event chose for a theme "Kinship" and a theme verse from Proverbs 17:17 - " A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity." (NRSV)

This theme got me thinking about the adversity that several of our churches face in terms of coping with declining membership and resources and aging facilities that need to be maintained. And the theme of kinship reminded me of the theme of the 2018 General Assembly -- "Renewing the Vision: Kindom Building for the 21st Century." I wrote last summer about the daily bible studies at the assembly that focused on the idea of "kindom" as opposed to kingdom. Our idea of the word kingdom is one of a top-down monarchy. The bible study leaders contrasted that to an idea of "kindom" which is a more horizontal structure of power in which everyone is a beloved child of God. They noted "the kindom of God is not built through competition but in mutual cooperation and solidarity." They also noted that Jesus criticized the power structures of his day and broadened the definition of family to extend beyond blood relationships.



On January 11-12, a group of 13 committed members of our presbytery spent 16 hours together on discerning ways to implement the three priorities that were reaffirmed by the presbytery in 2018. You will read about our work in the soon-to-be-posted presbytery packet. One of the things we did was to come up with a proposed mission statement for our presbytery. In the statement you will see the word "family." We share a kinship together, due to our common faith in Jesus Christ and our choice to live out our faith in the reformed tradition of the PC(USA). We are connected with a broadened definition of family.

As I have reflected on our work that weekend, I believe that we need to be willing to make changes in how we operate as a presbytery and how we interact with each other as "connected" congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas. I was struck by the comments of the GA bible study leaders: "the kindom of God is not built through competition but in mutual cooperation and solidarity." During my years as a pastor in this presbytery, I never felt I was in competition with area Presbyterian churches. But I did go out of my way to avoid any appearance of being in competition. So I didn't think of inviting area congregations to join us for special programs or events because

I didn't want the pastor or their members to think that I was trying to "steal their members." I felt connected by a common belief system - and knew that we were connected by a "presbytery" (which is much more than an office or a staff by the way) but I didn't reach out to try and make connections with area congregations as much because I didn't want to appear to be in competition with them.

In this challenging and chaotic environment where many of our congregations are facing adversity, I am thankful for this reminder from the book of Proverbs that "kinsfolk are born to share adversity." I would like to suggest that our larger congregations need to think about reaching out to our smaller congregations and think of ways that they can support their ministry. And it doesn't have to be larger to smaller - it can be any congregation in a certain area. We need to expand our cooperation with each other and become more intentional in sharing our resources. It is a definite shift in thinking that moves from all relating to a common entity (a presbytery) and one that moves to more intentional relating to each other; relating in mutual cooperation and solidarity. I'm not sure exactly what this looks like but I very much like the concept. We are all in this challenging time of ministry together, and we are indeed a family with a common tradition and polity and faith in Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendars for the next "kinship" gathering which will be held on March 1-2, 2019 at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. I am glad to be part of this extended family with each of you and I look forward to seeing you in Clarksville!!

Stewart

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Alisa Secret Installed as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian--Little Rock

On January 13th, 2019, Rev. Alisa Secret was installed as Associate Pastor for Congregational Nurture of Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Below is a photo of the installation service:



From left to right: Rev. Gordon Garlington; RE Cyril Hollingsworth; Rev. Alisa Secret; RE and Moderator of the Presbytery David Stricklin; Rev. Carol Clark.

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Holiday Island Burns Church's Mortgage

In January, members and friends of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church had a mortgage-burning party. See below for a photo:



Left to right: Clarence Razer, Longtime member; Rev. Dr. Doug Miller, Transitional Pastor; and Wesley Stille, Church Treasurer

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Opportunities for Our Presbytery

Part-Time (20 hours/week) Interim Pastor -- North Little Rock (Argenta)

-- This part-time interim pastor position provides an opportunity for leading and supporting a small, tight-knit church in transition. This position requires someone who can help us with the day-to-day of tasks of operating as a church, as well as provide leadership and support in our pastoral transition. For more information, email: amywetz711@gmail.com. You can also find a link to the job description at this link: [click here](#).

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!

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 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) or Cathy Baker, Ruling Elder (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 or call 501-753-9533.

Organist at Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church (Forrest City): Graham Memorial is a small congregation located in Forrest City, AR (about an hour from Downtown/Midtown Memphis, off I-40;) with a small but devoted choir and a talented and dedicated Choir Director.

This position is responsible for providing organ music for one regular morning worship service each Sunday (11:00 AM), and choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Past organists share that the GMPC organ is a joy to play. Organ specs include: Allen Renaissance Quantum 2 manual, 20 stop Swell, 18 stop Great (including chimes), and 14 stop Pedal, 8 stop General, and 16 pistons. The Quad Suite comprises voicings for American Classic, English Cathedral, French Romantic, and Neo-Baroque; Midi Assistant with remote control, and Console Controller has programmable interfaces for both organ and MIDI functions and contains a hymn archive.

For more information, contact Carol Danehower, Personnel Committee

at vdanehwr@memphis.edu, or Ron Cockman, Treasurer at rcockman@woodruffelectric.com. For more information, including a full job description, [click here](#).

"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

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.

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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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News from Vera Lloyd -- Save The Dates

Garden Party: This year's Garden Party will be held at the Peel Mansion in Bentonville, Arkansas, **May 4th**, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. It will be an afternoon filled with fiesta-themed food, live music, a silent auction and a chance to learn more about how you can support children, youth and families in crisis.

Donor Appreciation: Vera Lloyd could not serve children and families in need without the generous help of our churches, donors and volunteers. The Campus Carnival will be held **June 1st** on the Monticello campus. Come tour the houses and meet the Vera Lloyd youth!

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Travel Opportunity with Kirk in the Pines (HSV) -- trip to Portugal and Spain in November

Pastor Bill Bailey of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines in Hot Springs Village will be hosting a tour Nov. 4-15 to Lisbon, Portugal and to Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Madrid, Avila, Zaragoza, and Barcelona in Spain. Members of sister churches, family and friends are welcome to accompany Kirk members. Brochures with details and the full itinerary are available by emailing kirktour@gmail.com. Reservations are on a first-come basis.

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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.

THE RESOURCE CENTER

Take 'em away!

We loved our VCR tapes and the resource center ended up with a phenomenal collection of them. The problem is that many churches no longer have the equipment to play them, moving on to DVDs and even digital types of resources. At the March Presbytery meeting, we are going to bring a host of VCR tapes. If you can put them to good use in your churches or your home, they are yours for the taking. Just visit our tables and while you're there, pick up our gift of a Lenten devotional booklet and browse through our Lenten/Easter resources.

Teach those youth!

We have a full set of preview resources for the new PCUSA confirmation curriculum and an extra teachers guide. The curriculum is getting good reviews and is worth a look.

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/81006/big-god-big-questions-confirmation-for-a-growing-faith-sample-book.aspx>.

Choose a conference!

If you've read Debby Irving's Waking Up White or even if you haven't but you're interested in social justice issues, there is a conference in Iowa in March that might be good for your continuing education. Debby Irving will be a part of the conference leadership. This organization has been around for a long time and it looks like a good conference. Check out the link that follows to see if you're interested:

https://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/wpc20?fbclid=IwAR0sLTqGoN9dugNDv85aK_N_JgycMkTNZ4-dUnK4IVXgQQRwN2sCJSm9CW8

Come visit us!

We had a great event on January 27 with about 30 folks representing 11 different churches. We'd love to have you drop by the resource center in the Presbytery office or visit the online catalog on the Presbytery's website. If you need materials, contact Carol Clark at cbclark05@aol.com or home phone 501-725-4601 and she'll mail them to you!

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

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Youth at Presbytery -- March 1-2, 2019 University of the Ozarks

Cost: \$25

For youth in Grades 10-12

For more information, [click here](#), and scroll to the bottom of the page, where you will find a link titled, "March, 2019 Youth At Presbytery Information and Registration."

Summer Trips -- 2019

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

[Click here](#) for links to more information and registration forms.

2019 Triennium (Purdue University)

July 15-20, 2019

Current 8th-12th graders

Registration deadline: February 15

[Click here](#) for links to more information and registration forms.

Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC):

July 20-27, 2019

Current 8th-12th graders

Registration deadline: February 28

[Click here](#) for links to more information and registration forms.

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

"Like" us on Facebook!

Search

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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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Three Families in Mountainburg Restored to Safe Housing after April 2018 Tornado

Because you -- and other Presbyterians -- give faithfully through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and to the Disaster Preparedness and Response Subcommittee (DPRS) disaster fund, three families in Mountainburg are returning to safe, secure housing.

Thanks to a \$7,500 PDA grant, which is supported by OGHS, the three families no longer have to live in temporary quarters. For details on each family that was helped, [click here](#).

The aid consisted of a \$1,000 grant from the DPRS, and a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for \$7,500.

Thank you for your continued, faithful support of our disaster relief efforts!

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Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras Subcommittee Joins With Solar Under the Sun to Install Water Filter Systems

In January Solar Under the Sun graduates from three churches (Second--Little Rock, First--Bentonville, First--Jacksonville) of the Arkansas Presbytery joined up with a Living Waters of the World team from Cooperstown (New York) Presbyterian Church to install a Solar Powered Living Waters System in Las Mercedes, Honduras. Las Mercedes is a remote mountain community in western Honduras.

We were joined by members of the community in installing the solar system and the water system which will provide them with a local source of clean water.

The new system is right next to the community school, so not only will the school have access to clean drinking water, but the students can take home a gallon of clean water each day to their families.

It was a tremendous trip and a real joy to work side-by-side with Presbyterians from New York to assist this Honduran community.

There are more mission trips planned to Honduras for water, solar and community development projects.

If your congregation wants to hear more or participate in a trip please contact us.

Duke Monroe
Leigh Harvey
Leslie Belden
Phil Butin

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ATTENTION: Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas

MARK THE DATES for this upcoming important event!

Questions? Contact Ila Blackletter-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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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 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 -- 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](#)

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 [DAVID STRICKLIN](#)
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [LESLIE ROPER](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [MARION HUMPHREY](#)

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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>

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