



March 2019

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Trusting That We Serve God Better Together...

by Temporary Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Leslie Smith Belden

In so many ways the March 1-2, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was a Spirit-filled lesson in what it means to be Presbyterian. Beginning with MWS Bruce Reyes-Chow's Thursday evening presentation on "Making a Difference in the World," the 140th Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas at the University of the Ozarks in

Clarksville inspired and encouraged those present to be open to God's Holy Spirit as God moves among and within us. Many came on Thursday, staying through the closing gavel on Saturday afternoon, to attend former PC(USA) Moderator Reyes-Chow's two workshops on Friday afternoon as well as the theological discussion led by Reyes-Chow and worship with the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Friday evening.



Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Friday's conversations with Reyes-Chow, titled "Searching for Unicorns and Reaching those Elusive Young Adults" and "A Prophet, Priest, Pastor and Poet Walk into a Bar... and Start a Movement," set the tone of the meeting - which was future-looking and hope-filled. And the keynote theological discussion on "The Hubris of Harmony: Sharing Abundance Between Generations, Economies, Congregations, and Culture" emphasized a theme that would be echoed in the worship service and through almost every report given - that congregations are each blessed by God and called to be authentic bearers of those blessings rather than attempting to be something that God hasn't called us to be.

Here are links to Rev. Reyes-Chow's presentation slides, books, and podcasts:

[Slides: Making a Difference in the World Talk](#)

[Slides: Young Adult Workshop](#)

[Slides: Prophet, Priest, Pastor, and Poet Workshop](#)
[Slides: Friday Night Presbytery on Church Change](#)
[Bruce's Books on Amazon](#)
[Bruce's Podcasts on Spreaker](#)

In her last official action as moderator, outgoing Moderator Leslie Bethell Roper incorporated the proposed new mission statement for the Presbytery that was to be presented on Saturday into the heart of her sermon on Friday night: "Trusting that we serve God better together, we are a family of congregations, ministries, and their leaders empowering and supporting one another to embody Christ's love for all." In so many ways the messages of both Revs. Roper and Chow reached back to the historical connectional nature of our Presbyterian denomination to affirm how we believe God is moving us toward God's future: we are better together!



Rev. Leslie Bethell Roper -- outgoing Presbytery Moderator

Ruling Elder David Stricklin of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in Little Rock was installed as Moderator on Friday evening and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Marion Humphrey of Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church in Little Rock was installed as Vice Moderator on Saturday morning. The Presbytery granted approval for Holiday Island's loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program and for Wynne Presbyterian Church to sell a small portion of their property, but the highlights of Saturday morning were approving and welcoming those new to the Presbytery. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Ainsley Herrick, called as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Morrilton, and Moises Chan, serving as the Parish Associate

for Hispanic Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Springdale were enrolled as new members. The Presbytery also approved and welcomed Rev. Jim Ratliff, a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination, to serve as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas as he serves Spring River Presbyterian Church in Hardy, and commissioned Ruling Elder Mary Shaw as the Commissioned Ruling Elder of Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery mourned the loss of MWS Ben Bateman, even as we celebrated new Inquirer Brienne Christiansen and Candidate Jill Acree. These changes in the membership of the Presbytery were one more indication of God's Holy Spirit moving us toward God's good future.



Newly-installed Presbytery Moderator RE David Stricklin



Newly-installed Vice Moderator of the Presbytery MWS Marion Humphrey

The report of the Coordinating Team's "Group of 12" was possibly the centerpiece of the meeting, with all other future-oriented actions and reports dovetailing with the work of the group charged with following up on developing a specific action plan to achieve the Presbytery's priorities. Building strong congregations, connecting congregations, and developing and supporting youth-oriented ministries came to life as articulated through the implementation plan. The plan focuses on discerning the best practices of our congregations and creating the means through which we can connect with one another and share ideas through the support of the Presbytery. Rather than thinking of the Presbytery as a wheel with the Presbytery in the center and congregations connected to the Presbytery through the spokes, the new way of thinking about how we work better together is to think of the Presbytery as a web, with strands connecting each congregation with one another rather than only through the center.



MWS Ainsley Herrick Pastor at First Presbyterian--Morrilton



Rev. Jim Ratliff--Temporary Pastor at Spring River Presbyterian Church in Hardy

The Future of the Church Ministry Area announced that the Presbytery's new website should be up and running within weeks, and that they will be working to establish Zoom Room sites across the Presbytery so that groups of people can be connected through technology. The Youth Advisory Delegates attending the meeting not only advised commissioners when the Presbytery voted on proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* but also reported on the activities and trips that the Youth Advisory Team planned throughout the year.



RE Mary Shaw -- CRE at Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery's 2019 budget was approved, as were General Presbyter Stewart Smith's terms of call, and all amendments to the *Book of Order* were approved other than 18-C. Offices - On Amending G-3.0104, having to do with restricting verbal support or opposition of political candidates by church leaders. The Mission of the Church Ministry Area is planning to hold The PLACE in central Arkansas again this summer and minor changes to the Presbytery's Ministry Manual were approved. Presentations on the Presbytery's Honduras Ministry and Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center inspired commissioners and visitors to support the mission opportunities of the Presbytery. Another opportunity to serve, as a member on one of the ministry areas or committees of the Presbytery, was also encouraged.

By the end of the meeting 178 persons had registered, one of the highest attended meetings of the Presbytery of Arkansas in some time. Whether it was to hear MWS Bruce Reyes-Chow, to worship God together as a presbytery, to hear about the

exciting ways the Presbytery of Arkansas is moving toward God's future, to vote on the proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*, to simply represent one's congregation, or to enjoy the fellowship of other presbyters, most leaving the meeting expressed that they experienced God's Holy Spirit moving among us. May we pray that the Spirit will continue to lead us - and bring us back together June 8, 2019 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Sign Up Now for Senior High YouthQuake

Hosted by Youth Advisory Team



Senior High Youthquake

March 29-31, 2019

9th-12th grade - Ferncliff Camp - Cost \$95

PosterMyWall.com

For a flyer with more information
(and instructions for signing up), [click here](#).

This flyer is also on the Presbytery's website: [click here](#), and go to the bottom of the webpage.

Summer Trip Registration Extended

All of our slots have been filled for the trip to Mo-Ranch
for Junior High Jubilee (July 6-11).

We have 7 spots available on the trip to Montreat for the Montreat Youth Conference (July 20-27) for youth currently in grades 8-12.

We have a few spots remaining on the trip to Purdue University for the Youth Triennium Conference (July 15-20) for youth currently in grades 8-12.

Links with registration information are listed below.

The Youth Advisory Team thanks all members of the presbytery who supported our youth activities by purchasing t-shirts, socks, and bracelets at the presbytery meeting. We collected \$312 which will greatly help with our activities for the year!!!

Here is the information on our summer trips:

2019 Triennium (Purdue University)

July 15-20, 2019

Current 8th-12th graders

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

Montreat Youth Conference (Montreat, NC):

July 20-27, 2019

Current 8th-12th graders

[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

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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United Campus Ministry Highlights From the First Two Months of the Semester

--Monday lunches have been a great connecting point. Students are inviting friends such that we have more students every week and many were able to schedule spring classes so they could join us for the first time this year.

--Thursday Dinner and Discussion began with a three part series on *Sharing God's Love Through Redemptive Entrepreneurship*. On February 14, we began a series on the book, *Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World*, by Bob Goff.

--Carol Essen and four of our Lilly Interns went to SHYC (Senior High Youth Conference) for Grace Presbytery youth, near Dallas. They had an amazing time meeting youth and sharing about UCM as a connection point at the U of A, should they choose to attend.

--United Campus Ministry Students led worship at both services with First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville, on February 17.

--Carol Essen and Kristi Button are the Co-Interim Directors of the Ministry, in a time of transition this spring semester.

--We are beginning a new campaign to invite individuals from churches in Arkansas and Texas to become sustaining supporters of UCM through monthly giving. Susan Rose sowed wonderful seeds in the ministry through the Lilly Endowment for our Leadership Initiative Program that can be sustained and fully blossom under the leadership of a fully funded campus minister. As a supporter of UCM, you become an important key to hiring a full-time campus minister who will engage with college students at a crucial point in their lives. You will **engage** young people for whom a home away from home during these first years of independence makes a huge impact. You will **equip** students to explore vocation by supporting our Lilly Leadership Initiative Interns. You will **empower** leaders for the church and the world as they move out to be the leaders we need in our communities and in our churches.

--Receive the monthly newsletter to stay in touch with the amazing ministry happening on the campus of the U of A. <http://www.ucmuofa.org/contact-us.html>
--Support UCM <http://www.ucmuofa.org/ucmyearofgrowth.html>

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Lyon College News--Campus Musicians and Scottish Festival

Lyon College Musicians Available

The Music Program of Lyon College is wanting to share their gifts and talents with churches in Arkansas Presbytery. We have a variety of musical talent including small ensembles, soloists, vocalists, and other musical groups. We would love to participate in worship with your congregation through music leadership. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Maggie Alsup (margaret.alsup@lyon.edu / 870-307-7474) today.

Arkansas Scottish Festival -- 40th Anniversary

Please join us on the Lyon College campus in Batesville for the **40th Annual Arkansas Scottish Festival**. Highlights of the festival include the massed bands and clans parade, bagpipe competition, Highland dance, Clan Row, entertainers performing Celtic music, a British Car Show, sheep dog demonstrations, Highland athletics, the Iona Worship Service, food, and fun for all ages. There is no charge for admission to the festival. The festivities begin on Friday night, April 12th, with the President's Reception. Most activities will occur on Saturday, the 13th, culminating with the Dinner/Ceilidh on Saturday evening. Reservations are required for the Ceilidh as this event sells out every year. Sunday begins with the Iona service, and includes mini-concerts featuring the Lyon College Pipe Band, and other entertainers in the Sloan Auditorium of the Brown Chapel Fine Arts Building. Parking will be directed to the Future Fuels warehouse parking lot at the corner of Harrison and 30th, and shuttles will run to the college, the athletic fields, and the hotels, on a regular schedule. More information can be found on the festival web site: <https://www.arscottishfest.com/> We hope to see you.

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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!

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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EarthCare Congregations in Our Presbytery

Four congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas have been certified as Earth Care Congregations by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2020. This honor speaks to the great commitment that these churches have to caring for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, these congregations affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of church life and completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that

make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by PC(USA) Environmental Ministries, the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

Our presbytery is home to 4 of the 232 churches that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year. "The congregation's activities and commitment will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Our four congregations that received certification are:

First Presbyterian Church in Conway
First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville
Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock
Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.

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.

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Minister Study

The **Flourishing in Ministry Project** at the University of Notre Dame is seeking Presbyterian clergy to participate in a study that will focus on transition to ministry in the first 10 years of ministry.

This is how the Flourishing in Ministry Project describes the study:

Our next focus will be to understand how new clergy experience their transition into the ministry profession. How does a person become a pastor? Is this process

different if you are a woman or a man, a younger or more mature person, an individual with professional experience outside ministry, or a person of color? What factors help new clergy thrive, and what obstacles cripple their development?

To develop our research, we need to recruit participants with the following characteristics:

1. Clergy women who have started their first unsupervised (non-internship, ordained or ordination track) appointment as full-time congregational leaders in 2018;
2. Clergy men who have started their first unsupervised appointment as full-time congregational leaders in 2018;
3. Clergy women currently at their second unsupervised appointment as full-time congregational leaders.

Because the process of adjusting to a complex profession such as ministry takes time, we have designed this research as a 'longitudinal' study. This means that participants in the first two groups will be interviewed once a year, for three years. Participants in the third group will be interviewed once, with a possible follow-up interview taking place at a later date. The first cycle of interviews will take place during Spring 2019. All information shared with the Flourishing in Ministry Project will be strictly confidential.

To learn more about the Flourishing in Ministry Project, and the people behind it, please follow this link: <https://wellbeing.nd.edu>

There is a two-page letter that more fully describes this project at www.pcusa.org/flourishinministry. If you are aware of a Teaching Elder with any of the characteristics sought for in this study, please forward the information onto them. [Back to the top of this email](#)

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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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 STAFF:
General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)
Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)
Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)
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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