

June 2019

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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The Presbytery Meets at Second Presbyterian--Little Rock

In case you missed it...

The June 8, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock focused on pastoral leadership and the process of nurturing those under care of the Presbytery. There were the usual reports, and the needs of

our brothers and sisters affected by the recent tornado in Pine Bluff and the flooding associated with the Arkansas River were lifted up, but examining candidates for ministry and welcoming new pastors into the Presbytery dominated the one-day meeting -- in a very good way!

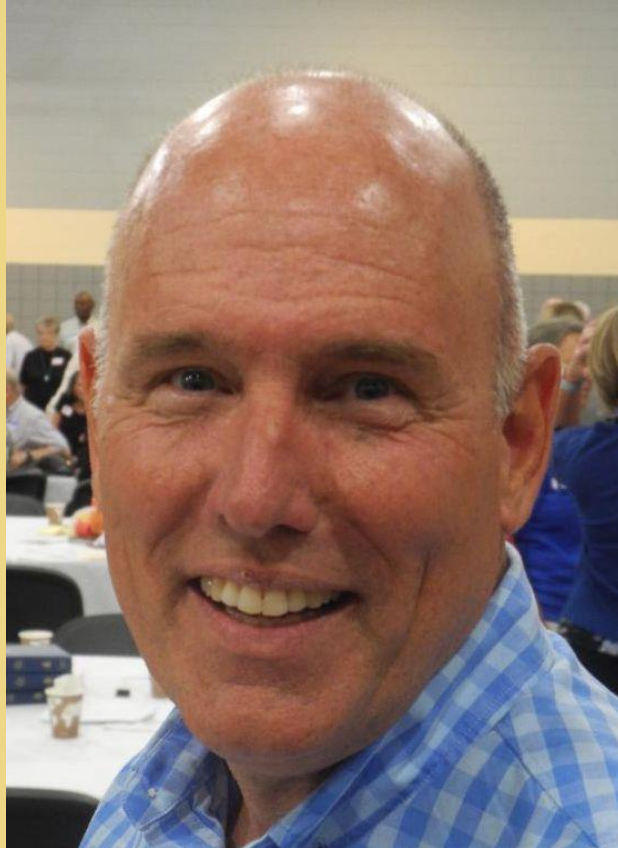
The first major order of business was the report of the Staff Search Committee, given by Moderator MWS Steve Hancock. He explained that they are searching for five part-time positions, three of which have been focused on first because they are needed most immediately: The Presbytery Administrator position, the staff member to work with Youth, and the Stated Clerk. After interviewing Temporary Stated Clerk MWS Leslie Belden they recommended her (that would be me) for the position of Stated Clerk and I was elected for a three-year term. I am honored to be able to continue serving the Presbytery and hope that I may do so with grace. They will be working to fill the two most needed positions in the near future and then will work toward filling the others.



Newly-elected Stated Clerk Rev. Leslie Belden

General Presbyter MWS Stewart Smith updated commissioners on grants awarded to the Presbytery for response efforts to the tornado in Pine Bluff and the recent

flooding on the Arkansas River. Former Presbytery staff member MWS Michael Vinson was honored for his service to the Presbytery, and commissioners were reminded that Director of Mission Support Kenneth Rich is now only working mornings so before coming to the office in the afternoon please call to make sure that someone is there.



Rev. Michael Vinson

Worship was led by MWS Steve Hancock and Candidate Stacey Hammons, who preached. The offering of \$1,830.66 will go to support the Presbytery's summer youth trips.

Treasurer RE Bob Boehmler thanked congregations for their financial support of the work and ministry of the Presbytery, noting that investments are doing better than last year but he predicted a decline in the latter part of the year. Other business items included approving increasing the number of Synod commissioners from four to six, and granting honorable retirement to MWS Libby Lizarraga, and to MWS Karen Akin.



MWS Karen Akin

The Presbytery learned of the dissolution of Cleburne Avenue Presbyterian Church in West Helena by the Administrative Commission charged with assisting congregations who wish to close. A service of celebration of the ministry of that congregation will be scheduled and announced for later this fall.

One big announcement was that the Presbytery of Arkansas is now a Matthew 25 presbytery, which means that congregations will be encouraged to become Matthew 25 congregations! This news was in previous Banners, but more will be shared in future meetings of Presbytery.

The Mission of the Church Ministry Area promoted the P.L.A.C.E. event, which will be held on August 10, 2019 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The Resource Center was also highlighted, and congregations were encouraged to share their stories of education and mission so that they may be highlighted at the October 4-5, 2019 presbytery meeting. Contact Gordon Garlington at ggarlington3@hotmail.com.

But as was noted previously, the centerpiece of the June 8, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was welcoming new pastors and celebrating those under

care of the Presbytery who are discerning their call to ministry. This included:

- * Examining and approving Candidate Stacey Hammons, who serves as the Chaplain at Presbyterian Village, a retirement center in Little Rock, for ordination, and enrolling her as a member of the Presbytery;
- * Approving the call of MWS Bradley Rito as Pastor of Holiday Island Presbyterian Church, and enrolling him as a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas;
- * Approving the call of MWS Krista Denne' as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville;
- * Approving calling a special meeting of the Presbytery for the purpose of examining and ordaining Candidate Max Hill on August 11, 2019 at Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock;
- * Examining and approving Inquirer Julianna Whitson of First Presbyterian Church in Prairie Grove to move to the status of Candidate; and
- * Approving enrolling Jeannie Shear of First Presbyterian Church in Conway as an Inquirer.



Candidate Stacey Hammons (Chaplain at Presbyterian Village)



Rev. Bradley Rito (new minister at Holiday Island)



Candidate Julianna Whitson



Inquirer Jeannie Shear

If you missed this meeting of Presbytery you will not want to miss the meeting held on October 4-5, 2019 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. Not only will the Mission of the Church Ministry Area be highlighting the mission and educational ministries of congregations of the Presbytery, but the Presbytery will begin a three-part look at the focus areas of being a Matthew 25 presbytery and congregation, and also will be visited by MWS Dori Haljmarson, the PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker serving in Honduras, where the Presbytery is involved in ministry. Ministry Areas working on the three priorities of the Presbytery will also be updating commissioners on their work.

Please keep the Presbytery of Arkansas and its congregations in your prayers...

Yours in Christ,
Leslie Belden
(Newly Elected) Stated Clerk

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Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

Service of Installation for Rev. Bradley Rito

Sunday, July 14, 4:00 pm

Holiday Island Presbyterian Church

111 Valley Drive, Holiday Island

Service of Ordination for Chaplain Stacey Hammons

Sunday, July 21, 2:30 pm

The Chapel at Presbyterian Village

501 N. Brookside, Little Rock

Special Called Meeting of Presbytery

Sunday, August 11, 3:00 pm

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

(Packet and information about the meeting will be posted in July. Ministers and congregations outside of a 75 mile radius are welcome to attend but are exempt for quorum purposes and do not need to request an excused absence.)

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The P.L.A.C.E.

Following Jesus

The Discipleship Path

**Saturday, August 10, 2019
9:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment's 2019 event includes a keynote by Steve Hancock exploring four fundamental spiritual practices used by Jesus and his followers, giving purposeful and repeated attention to that which is crucial for our growth in Christ. Our classes will focus on these practices:

Passionate Worship -- Carol Clark
Intentional Faith Development -- Theresa Spragins & Kristi Button
Risk-Taking Mission and Service -- David Gill
Extravagant Generosity -- Steve Hancock & Malinda Kirchner

Plus two additional classes:
Why We Worship as We Do -- David Dyer
Clerk of Session Training -- Leslie Belden

Offered by:
The Mission of the Church Ministry Area

For a detailed brochure, [click here](#).

For a registration form, [click here](#).

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Summer Trips

Please keep the three summer youth trips in your prayers during the month of July. We have three trips that will be taking place on consecutive weeks.

Mo-Ranch Junior High Jubilee: Twenty one youth from eight different churches will leave on Saturday, July 6 and stay overnight at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas. The conference begins on Sunday, July 7 and concludes on Thursday, July 11 when the group returns home. Thanks to chaperones Jared Brown, Whitney

Bordelon, Brianne Christiansen and Celeste Wheeler.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium: Twenty five youth from five different churches (including 3 from FPC Texarkana in Pines Presbytery) will depart for Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN on Monday, July 15 and stay overnight at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign, IL where former member of our presbytery Matt Matthews is pastor. The conference begins on Tuesday, July 16 and concludes on Saturday, July 20 when the group returns home. Thanks to chaperones Brianne Christiansen, Grace Blazer, Ruth Amensen and Jared Brown.

Montreat Youth Conference: Ten youth from five different churches will travel with a group of twenty from Second Presbyterian Church to the Montreat Youth Conference. The group will depart on Saturday, July 20 and stay overnight at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, TN. The conference begins on the evening of Sunday, July 21 and concludes on Saturday, July 27 when the group returns home. Thanks to chaperones Loretta Mansell and Grace Blazer.

Youth Advisory Team

The Youth Advisory Team is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 year.

The Youth Advisory Team is a team of youth, college students, and adults that gather to grow in our faith and our leadership abilities & to help the Presbytery make disciples of Jesus Christ through events, conferences, and mission opportunities!

The Youth Advisory Team (A-Team) plans events and trips open to all youth in the presbytery.

The A-Team is a sub-committee of the Presbytery's Youth, Collegiate, and Young Adult Ministry Area.

There are three types of delegates for Youth Advisory Team

- Youth delegate - 10th-12th grade for 2018-2019 school year.
- College delegate - high school graduate through age 22.
- Adult delegate - 23 or older.

For an application form for the Youth Advisory Team, [click here](#)

Junior High Youthquake

Save the date for the fall!!! Junior High Youthquake will be held September 27-29 at Ferncliff. More information will be available later in the summer.

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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Opportunities for Our Presbytery

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](#).

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](#).

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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Westover Hills Presbyterian Women Honor Mary Lois Stanfield



Westover Hills Presbyterian Women recently honored Mary Lois Stanfield (left) with a Life Membership to Presbyterian Women for her dedication and commitment to programs and projects that support the spirit and promise of PW. Stanfield is the co-chair of Westover's upcoming Treats & Treasures sale and immediate past co-moderator of Westover's PW. Joining her in the photo are presenter Betty Glenn (co-chair of the 2019 Treats & Treasures Sale) and LowAnna Morehead. All three were attending the annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Luncheon. The framed print Stanfield is holding will be available for purchase at the 2019 Treats & Treasures sale on August 9th & 10th.

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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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Michael Vinson Extends Thanks to Presbytery

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gift and kind words at the Presbytery meeting. I also want you to know how much I appreciate your love and support to me not only as a staff person but also in the many ways you have supported me as I seek to discern my call. Thank you for your kindness and patience and participation with me as we served on committees together, learned new things in workshops and learned together about being the church in the Presbytery of Arkansas. I look forward to our work together in the future.

With Joy and Gratitude,

Michael

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News from Westminster Presbyterian Church (Little Rock)

On the evening of July 19, 2018 Westminster Presbyterian Church on John Calvin Drive in Little Rock, Arkansas burned to the ground. The loss of a beautiful facility and precious memories was deeply painful for the small congregation. They did not, however, despair. Within ten days the congregation was worshipping at the Arch Street Pike Firehouse, the use of the community room generously donated by one of the companies that had fought the flames.

The congregation and Session then began looking forward. Within a few months the previous property was sold, new property with a house that in its past had been a grocery store and a gas station decades earlier was purchased and renovations were planned and then begun. Murray Construction, Inc. volunteered to do the work at cost, a great blessing to the church.

The sanctuary was the first inside renovation to be completed and became the worship space for the congregation on March 3rd, which was, fittingly Transfiguration

Sunday. The building was made handicapped accessible. The kitchen was improved with all new appliances. Thanks to the people of First Presbyterian Church, Madison, Kansas (a congregation that was closing) chancel furnishings, pulpit, piano, and other items were donated. Thanks to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and to the generosity of several congregations in four different states, support was given to the church as we moved to a new neighborhood and began reaching out to the people in south Pulaski County. New siding and a new parking lot, along with a new sign, are in the works and nearing completion.



Westminster's new worship space

On Sunday, July 21, 2019, the Sunday nearest the first anniversary of the fire, there will be a Dedication Service and a reception at 3:00 p.m., giving thanks to the loving God who has been so gracious to us. We hope people can gather and see the amazing transformation that has taken place to the "old farm house" as it has become a "new church house."

The address is 15802 Arch Street Pike, Little Rock, AR 72203. Rev. Dr. David Dyer is the pastor.

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News from University of Arkansas' United Campus Ministry

UCM has seen a 41% increase in Student Participation in Programming

UCM tracks the students who attend each of our programmed events and in the 2018-2019 school year we saw a 41% increase in student participation over the 2017-2018 school year. This includes students who come to programs, but does not include the students who drop by with friends, study in the building regularly or who spend hours in the office each week talking to ministry staff and friends. The amount of activity in the building when we went 24/7 during finals weeks was greater than we have ever seen. There were students studying, de-stressing or taking a break in every space in the building at all hours.



UCM hosted our Third Annual Bike-a-thon on April 27

It was a very nice and also very windy day on April 27, for our third bike-a-thon. We are so grateful for the largest student participation yet and for the community members who rode and supported our ride. For the first time, we had parents who came into the town to ride and help with the luncheon. We had four pastors ride: Becky Purcell from First Presbyterian, Prairie Grove; Phil Butin from First United

Presbyterian, Fayetteville; and Dennis Ritchie and Ronnie Prevost from Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista. Our student leader, Chloe, involved many students as both riders and food station helpers. We are grateful for support from many of our NWA churches, as well as friends and family of our students. Our students really raised the bar with the amount of support they received.



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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!

New PW Coordinating Team

The following were confirmed as the PW Presbytery Coordinating Team for 2019,
with installation led by Karene Jones:

Maryann Sweeney and Vicki Erickson - Co-Moderators
Sharon Warner and Sharyl Ritschel - Co-Vice-Moderators

Kathy White - Secretary/Historian

Gail Phillips - Treasurer

Mary Shaw - Mission/Peace/Justice Coordinator

Carolyn Willis - Cluster 1 Leader

Sally Pierce - Cluster 3 Leader

Patty Minga - Cluster 4 Leader

Ila Blackketter-Wolfe and Cathy Rogers - Members-at-Large

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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@presbyeryofarkansas.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](#)

Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

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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