



August 2019

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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Year of Transition

The year 2019 will go down as one of transition on our Presbytery staff. Last October, our presbytery elected a staff search committee that was charged with filling 5 positions in our newly adopted staff structure. That decision just so happened to

coincide with the timing of NiAnn Thompson's retirement from the presbytery staff after many years of faithful service and Hannah Lahodny's resignation as our staff resource for youth after serving us well on an interim basis while working full time at Ferncliff. As a result, we have been "short staffed" for all of 2019.

The search committee had a difficult task--trying to fill 5 positions at once and they decided to prioritize the positions that more impacted our current day-to-day operations. As you recall, at the June stated meeting, the search committee placed the name of Leslie Belden, our temporary stated clerk, before the presbytery and she was elected to be our stated clerk. As you will read in a report below, over the summer the search committee has filled two more positions. There were several very qualified applicants for both of these positions.



Brianne Christiansen has been hired to be the Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People. Brianne lives in Fayetteville and works on a part-time basis as the Co-Youth and Young Adult Director at First United Presbyterian Church. She also is a seminary student at Western Theological Seminary and an inquirer for ordination in the Presbytery of Arkansas. Brianne will work from Fayetteville. She has begun her work immediately by planning for a youth advisory team retreat and our upcoming Junior High Youthquake (see details below in this edition of *The Banner*).

Kimberly Palmer has been hired to be the new Presbytery Administrator. As you may recall this became a part-time position in the new staff structure. Kimberly lives in Jacksonville and was attracted to the part-time nature of the position and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with accounting and bookkeeping in small business. Kimberly will begin her work on September 2. You will have the opportunity to meet both Brianne and Kimberly at the October meeting of presbytery.

Of course, this means that we must say "goodbye" with gratitude to Kenneth Rich, whose full-time position was eliminated in the new staff design. Knowing the part-time position was coming, Kenneth found another part-time position in April and has been working half-time since then. Kenneth began his work with us in 2012 and has been a faithful and loyal member of our staff. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Kenneth and very much appreciate his friendship and assistance to me as I made a transition into the General Presbyter position. Kenneth has been offered a generous severance package to assist him and his family as he looks for other employment. Kenneth's last day with us will be on August 30.

The staff search committee will now turn its attention toward filling the two new positions in the staff design. I know they will appreciate your continued prayers as they continue their work.

I am certainly appreciative of all of those who have helped out during this time of transition. I am thankful for your patience with me as I have needed to give attention and time to other areas and responsibilities beyond my normal course of work. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming presbytery meeting, October 4-5 at Ferncliff. I remind you of our newly adopted mission statement: ***"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."*** I continue to be thankful to be a part of this family with you as we strive to embody the love of Jesus Christ for all people.

Stewart

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Mark Your Calendars

142nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas

October 4-5, 2019

For those that want to make lodging reservations, Ferncliff will have 36 rooms available for \$99 Single and \$56 double which will include breakfast in the dining hall before the meeting. Bunks in the Belden Pond Cabins (bring your own linens and towels) can be reserved for \$25 (breakfast is included). To register for rooms online, [click here](#)

For those staying in Little Rock, the closest hotels to Ferncliff will be in West Little Rock. You are encouraged to make your own reservations on your preferred travel site.

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Report on the Special Called Presbytery Meeting
August 11, 2019 at Second Presbyterian Church

In a worship-centered meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, the Presbytery examined and ordained MWS Max Hill on Sunday afternoon, August 11, 2019, at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Second Presbyterian is Max's home congregation, and he has been called as Campus Minister for the UKirk in St. Louis, Missouri, comprised of Washington University and St. Louis University.



Max Hill (newly ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, left) and Rev. Susan Rose (member at large, right)

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Stacey Hammons Installed



On Sunday, July 21st, Stacey Hammons was installed as Chaplain at Presbyterian Village in Little Rock.

Pictured left to right: Rev. Don Campbell (HR), RE Emily Hall--Second Presbyterian (Little Rock), Rev. Sally Johnson (HR), Rev. Stacey Hammons, Rev. Steve Hancock--Second Presbyterian (Little Rock), RE Berry Glenn--Westover Hills (Little Rock), Rev. Karen Akin--Grace Presbyterian (Little Rock), RE David Stricklin (moderator of Presbytery), RE Ann McSwain--Pulaski Heights (Little Rock)

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Junior High Youthquake

SEPTEMBER 27-29



take courage

J H Y Q 2020

MATTHEW 14: 22-33

It is time to register for the upcoming **Junior High Youth Youthquake** to be held at Ferncliff on September 27-29. Youthquake is a youth retreat for middle school and

junior high youth in current grades 6-9. Whitney Bordelon of Park Hill Presbyterian in North Little Rock will be our director. Cost of the retreat will be **\$95.00** for youth and chaperones and **\$65.00** for leader corp members. Youth in grades 10-12 along with college age students can serve on leader corp. John Arnold, pastor at Walnut Ridge, will be our keynote speaker. Carol Clark, honorably retired in Little Rock will serve as chaplain and Jeremy Morris from 1st Springdale will lead us in music. Information about the weekend can be found [here](#). To apply for leader corp [click here](#). To register a group from your church [click here](#). After your group is registered, individual covenant forms and registration are found [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

First Presbyterian Church of Searcy, AR, is looking for a pianist. The pianist is responsible for playing for Sunday worship [10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, each Sunday], choir practice [Wednesday, at 6:00 PM, August - May], and special worship services [Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve]. Please phone Pastor Ward Rudolph at (501)268-2212 with questions and to set up an interview.

First Presbyterian Church of Searcy, AR, is looking for an adult choir director. The adult choir director is responsible for conducting the choir for Sunday worship [10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, each Sunday], for choir practice [Wednesday, at 6:00 PM, August - May], and for special worship services [Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve]. Our choir director is an integral part of our worship team and worship committee. The choir director is responsible for selecting introits, anthems, and cantatas that are liturgically appropriate. The choir director along with the Pastor will select liturgically appropriate hymns for worship. Please phone Pastor Ward Rudolph at (501)268-2212 with questions and to set up an interview.

First Presbyterian Church of Searcy, AR, is looking for a children's choir director. Our children's choir director is responsible for conducting the children's choir for Sunday worship [10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, one Sunday each month], for choir practice [Wednesday, at 4:30 PM, August - May], and for special worship services [Christmas Eve, youth Sunday] and for our children's Christmas play. Our children's choir director is an integral part of our worship team and worship committee. The children's choir director is responsible for selecting anthems that are liturgically appropriate. Please phone Pastor Ward Rudolph at (501)268-2212 with questions and to set up an interview.

Ferncliff is recruiting highly-motivated individuals who wish to work, live, and learn as a full-time, residential volunteer at our 1,200 acre camp and conference center. Individuals would assist in a variety of tasks according to their skills and interests, including summer camps, educational programming, disaster assistance work, and Nature Preschool & After School Care programs. Volunteers receive fully-

furnished housing, a living stipend, and many other perks within our intentional community. Start date is flexible, but ideal candidates will commit to one year of service. More information about this and all open positions is available online: ferncliff.org/jobs

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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THE RESOURCE CENTER

Your Resource Center is alive and lending, as well as trying to stir up new avenues and directions to help us stay connected. All throughout the Presbytery we know that there are wonderful things happening - ideas that would enhance other churches without having to 're-invent the wheel.'

We'd love for you to share those ideas and resources with others using our Facebook page: Resource ARK. We have 124 members, and we're beginning to share in some good discussions.

We're also having discussions about some new ideas: sponsoring a child safety event, hosting a reception for members of Presbyterian Village who are doing Bible Study and enjoy reading, and getting into a music lending library where participating churches would have an opportunity to lend choir anthems to other Arkansas Presbytery churches. (You're probably NOT going to sing the same Christmas anthems as last year. Sharing with each other can stretch your music budgets!)

If you have any questions (or even better, ideas!), contact Carol Clark (cbclark05@aol.com or 501-563-6279).

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Empowering Women Network of the Synod of the Sun Seeks Three Women for Leadership Team

Greetings!

I am writing today on behalf of the Empowering Women Network of the Synod of the Sun.

They are planning their first gathering this coming October and are looking for three women to join their leadership team. Some of the responsibilities would include: advertising in the various Presbyteries/Synod; setting up the spaces; helping coordinate the travel for the facilitators; securing the venue (Ferncliff or Mo-Ranch would be awesome possibilities to look into!); and collecting registrations.

They will also need some help with small group breakout sessions, in addition to the group conveners.

If you are interested in helping with this, please get in touch with the gathering coordinator Natalie Bell: fpcowassopastor@att.net

If you know of someone who would be a great fit as a leader for this gathering please pass the information along! We all need to work together as the connectional body of Christ.

Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar
Synod Moderator 2019

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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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Presbytery Search Committee Update

Steve Hancock
August 20, 2019

Report of the Presbytery Staff Search Committee Presbytery of Arkansas

The Presbytery Staff Search Committee has filled two more positions on the Presbytery staff. Both of these positions are part-time, approximately twenty hours per week.

Brianne Christiansen is our new **Presbytery Developer of Ministries to, for, and with Young People**. Brianne graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northwestern College, and is taking classes at Western Theological Seminary. She is an Inquirer for Ordination under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas, and works part-time at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville in the areas of youth and young adult ministries. Brianne has been active in Presbytery-wide youth events including Triennium, Montreat, the Youth Advisory Team, Youth at Presbytery, and she directed Senior High Youthquake in 2019. The search committee was impressed with Brianne's energy and creativity, as well as her commitment to Christ, the church, and young people. Brianne's official start date was August 15.

Kimberly Palmer is our new **Presbytery Administrator**. Kimberly lives in Jacksonville, and completed coursework toward her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Memphis. She has owned and operated community-based newspapers with her husband for the last ten years. She handled the accounting department (accounts receivable and accounts payable), and has experience with QuickBooks, Peachtree and Sage, along with Word, Excel and Outlook. She also has experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. The search committee was impressed with Kimberly's technical skills and background, along with her warm, engaging personality. Her official start date is September 2.

Members of the Presbytery Staff Search Committee:
Steve Hancock (Moderator)

Georgia Senor (Clerk)
Bill Bailey
Hannah Hanson
Led Davis
Richard Freer
Stewart Smith (Staff Resource)

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**First Presbyterian Will Host Seminar:
"Illuminate Change in the Human Trafficking World"
Sunday, September 22 -- 3:00pm-7:30pm**

Two different sessions (3:00 - 5:00 pm and 5:45 - 7:30 pm) will be presented by six different speakers that work with trafficking victims in the Northwest Arkansas area.

Topics to be discussed include: what is human trafficking, risk factors and stage of entry, human trafficking in the porn culture, recognizing and responding to human trafficking, and how to stay safe in a media driven world.

A separate youth session (7th grade and up) will be offered at 5:45 - 7:30 pm by a pediatric nurse practitioner and a young adult pastor. They will explore types of trafficking, how individuals become victims, warning signs and red flags in the social media and how to stay safe.

The program is opened to the community. A complimentary supper break will be provided by the church.

Registration/reservation for the supper meal or child care is available at <https://www.fupcfay.org> or <http://www.bit.ly/33bpIN7>.

Supper and child care reservations are requested by Monday Sept 16 so we can plan accordingly.

For additional information, please contact Barbara Verdery at bjverdery@gmail.com or 479-466-1539

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Colnspire 2019

A conference addressing systemic racism in the church.

October 7-10, 2019

A Montreat Conference Center Event

Why should you join us?

We live in a world where blatant examples of racism and acts of violence constantly occupy our daily news with stories of shootings, discrimination, and fear. It's time to act. This event seeks to bring together people of faith in order to disarm prejudices that divide us and equip each other for practicing resurrection as new creations in Christ. We will delve into questions around the toxicities of racism and white supremacy we are currently breathing into our bodies and exhaling into the shared air. Additionally, we will seek to identify those things we want to breathe in, to forge a pathway to eviscerating the racism in our country and our world.

We have to start somewhere. Let's start together...

and with an incredible line-up of speakers!

Don't wait. [Register here today.](#)

Becky Purcell has already registered so any Presby of AR folks get \$25 off--just put "Presbytery of AR" in discount code box when you register!

DEADLINE FOR DISCOUNT IS THIS FRIDAY, AUGUST 30.

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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: 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](#)

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>

Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227