



May 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Taking the Right Wrong Turn"

After the Sunday evening storms pulverized sections of Paron, Mayflower, Saultillo, Vilonia and El Paso, a call was made to John Robinson, national director for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). The first thing John said on hearing more about the loss of life and area damage was, "I'm so sorry." Then, the conversation turned to the need to have a national response team come to help assess how we Presbyterians can best help those most in need. By Wednesday, our Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, chaired by James Anderson of Batesville, was meeting at the Presbytery office with Joan Otto and Ben Pawley, both from



Michigan, as well as our own Liz Branch, all PDA national response team members. We reacquainted ourselves with resources which could be helpful and began to make plans for our next steps.

On Thursday, Joan, Ben, James and I headed to area churches to survey their facilities with the idea that they might eventually host mission teams coming to our area to assist in the long-term recovery of our neighbors. Following these visits, we traveled to Mayflower and Vilonia. While some denominations focus on removing debris and some, on immediate needs for food and others work as case managers, Presbyterians focus on the spiritual needs of the victims of disaster and those first responders and others who care for them. Sensitive to the needs they see, they listen, they pray when it's desired and with a warm hug communicate that, no matter the situation, we are not alone.

Earlier in the day, Joan received a request from Team Rubicon, an organization of veterans who specialize in debris removal. They were looking for beds for 30 Team Rubicon volunteers. As we made our way to Vilonia, we thought we were heading to a Baptist church where volunteers were expected to register. Perhaps we would find lodging for these volunteers there. But instead of turning right on Byerly Road, we turned left. Instead of winding up at the Baptist Church, we happened upon the area campground for the Pentecostal Church of God. In the large meeting building, we were gladly greeted by three women who had been preparing the campground for an onslaught of volunteers. One had been there since three the previous morning. She was obviously weary but still cheerful. When she heard of the need for lodging for Team Rubicon, she immediately said, "We can take them." Ours was the right left turn. Wherever we stopped, people were eager to help. There were good turns all day.

Many of you have already made financial contributions to the Presbytery of Arkansas or to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance of the PCUSA. For these, we are grateful. Please remember to designate on the memo line, "Disaster Assistance," should you be sending gifts to the Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227. Also, continue to pray for all those affected by the tornados which hit here and elsewhere.

The needs are great and will be long term but so is the spirit of generosity which is surrounding our neighbors as they move toward the wholeness God desires for all whose lives have been broken.

Gratefully yours,

Bill

General Presbytery's Out of Office Commitments:

May

28 Session Meeting, Central Presbyterian, Russellville

29 Board Meeting, Vera Lloyd

June

1 Preach, First Presbyterian, Hot Springs

5-6 Excel Seminar, Little Rock

7 Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian, Hot Springs

13-20 General Assembly, Detroit, Michigan

30 Family Gathering, Branson, Missouri

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Church Employment Opportunities in or near our Presbytery

Christian Education Director -- First Presbyterian Church of Texarkana, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Christian Education Director to oversee and develop the overall educational program of the church. The current emphasis for this position will be on development of children's ministry with some support of youth and other educational ministry. For a job description, click this

link: <http://www.firstprestexarkana.org/wp-content/uploads/DCE.pdf>. Resumes may be emailed to 1stpresbytk@cableone.net.

For questions about the position please call either of the search committee's co-moderators: Jeff Daniels, 1-903-280-1424 or Corey Sharp, 1-903-556-7853.

Director of Family Ministries -- First Presbyterian Church of Rogers, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Director of Family Ministries to develop, plan, and implement the Christian education programs for children and youth. Resumes may be emailed to rfpc.ss@gmail.com.

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News of Our People

--**Rev. Tom Ulrich** has been elected the first president of the new Solar Under the Sun board of directors with ex-officios **Rev. David Gill and Bill Galbraith**. Tom is co-pastor at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith; David is executive director of Ferncliff Camp, and Bill is General Presbyter.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Betty Glenn** and family on the death of her husband Carl on March 7. The memorial service was held at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock on March 15. Betty is moderator of the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of AR.

--**Rev. Kris Crawford** will conclude her work as interim co-pastor at First, Bentonville at the end of May.

--**Rev. Lewis Donelson** received the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary 2014 distinguished alum award. He is the Ruth A. Campbell Professor of New Testament studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a minister member of the Presbytery of AR.

--**Rev. Jennifer Lord** delivered the keynote for the Spring Lecture Series at Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village. She is the Dorothy B. Vickery Professor of Homiletics and Liturgical Studies at APTS and a minister member of the Presbytery of AR.

--**Ryan Smith**, son of Rev. and Mrs. Stewart Smith, will marry Jessica Yates on May 31 at the University of the Ozarks. Ryan was the presbytery's Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly in 2012, and Stewart is pastor of First, Springdale.

--Ruling Elder **Elizabeth Balls** of Van Buren is recuperating from surgery. She is a member of presbytery's Committee on Administration.

--Three young adults connected to Second Presbyterian, Little Rock will give a year of service to the Young Adult Volunteer program of the PC(USA). **Jordan Akin**, daughter of Doug and Rev. Karen Akin, and **Christian Huisman**, Second Church's youth intern, will be serving in Hollywood, CA.

Katherine Norwood, who preached at presbytery meeting in Fayetteville, will be serving in New Orleans. Jordan graduates from Hendrix this month and Katherine, from UofA, Fayetteville.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** was open for scripture and prayer on May 1, National Day of Prayer, and the Presbyterian Women celebrated the Gifts of Women in worship on May 11.

--**First, Hot Springs** leaders were involved in the Community Easter Celebration on Saturday morning, April 19, in Arlington Park in downtown Hot Springs with pastor Lacy Sellars narrating the play "Alive!" and church member Hannah Mills as project coordinator.

--Members of **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** hosted and fed the 35-member maintenance crew from the AR Correctional Facility at Calico Rock on April 7-9 who labored to clear brush and trees from the 6-acre church campus.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** soup kitchen benefited from the King Crawfish and Seafood Festival on April 18-19.

--**First, Fort Smith** offered two pop-up options at noon on April 29 and May 1 at a local café to discuss how people of faith handle the difficult question of why bad things happen and what is evil. These meetings followed the devastating tornadoes in central AR on April 27.

--**First, Mountain Home** joined with Mountain Home high school students on April for the third community service gathering, this time a Cell Phone Workshop. The students interacted one-on-one with "seasoned" citizens while helping them to use their cell phones and other electronic communication devices. The free event was followed by a delicious free lunch.



Steven Switzer (left) helps Iona Weeks (right) learn more about her cell phone

--**First, Arkadelphia** congregation helped feed five or six members of the baseball team at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia on Easter Sunday who were unable to spend the holiday with their families because of games schedule.

--Leaders of **West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia** participated in Holy Week services.

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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



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. Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email revruss@gmail.com will be glad to answer your questions.

STUDYING SERIOUS TOPICS between Easter and summer? Why not check out some of these DVD resources!

"**Loving Someone with an Addiction**" (Acc. #DVD9793) is 65 minutes long and is accompanied by

a study guide.

"Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence" (Acc. #DVD9794) is 54 minutes long and is accompanied by a study and action printed guide and a collection of "Gun Violence, Gospel Values" resources from the PC(USA)

"Embracing Spiritual Awakening: Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith" (Acc. #DVD and BK9795) is a five-session study with DVD and printed handbook. Each video segment is 10 to 15 minutes long.

"Through a Lens Darkly: Grief, Loss and C.S. Lewis" (Acc. #DVD9797) is a 56-minute long story of individuals and families touched by significant loss who reflect on Lewis' book "A Grief Observed."

Three studies for people with cancer are presented by Ken Curtis: **"Reflections on Psalm 23"** (Acc. #DVD9800) in thirteen 8-minute programs complete with printed study guide; **"Reflections on the Lord's Prayer"** (Acc. #DVD9802) in ten 9-minute programs; and **"Reflections on the Beatitudes"** (Acc. #DVD9803) in ten segments.

"Keeping Your Child Safe" (Acc. #DVD9815) with extensive guides will help parents, teachers and church professionals educate children up to 8 years old on these 10-minute-long topics "Safe at Last! Keeping Your Child Safe from Physical Abuse," "Speak Up, Say No! Keeping Your Child Safe from Sexual Abuse," and "For Pete's Sake Tell! Keeping Children Safe from Sexual Abuse."

YOUR Resource Center has an abundance of "retired" VBS kits so if you are following any of these themes for Vacation Bible School or special programs/events this summer, we'd be glad to donate a kit to your congregation: western, mountain, camping, desert, canyon, underwater, heroes, beach, jungle, space, island or fair.

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS

Continuing this month I am ordinarily in the Resource Center only on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Self-service hours in the Resource Center are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday. If these latter days are the best for your visits, I'll gladly gather resources for you to pick up and as usual, I'll mail resources to patrons on the days I'm here.

REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG! Just go to the www.presbyteryofarkansas.org website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple or advanced search for just the right item.

(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education)

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First, Hot Springs to Host June Presbytery Meeting

First Presbyterian Church (Hot Springs) will host the 126th Stated Meeting of Presbytery on Saturday, June 7th. Make plans now to attend.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

It's not too late to register for summer trips!

We are still accepting registrations for Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch (current grades 6-8) and the Montreat Youth Conference (current grades 8-12)! We have great groups signed up for each of these trips and would love to have you or your youth join us!! Check out the link below for more information, or email britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org!

Here is the link for more information on these trips:

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%202014%20-%20Info%20and%20Registration%20form.pdf>

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 received funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.)

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Save the Date for "The P.L.A.C.E."

The Christian Education Committee invites everyone to "The P.L.A.C.E" seminar to be held Saturday, August 9th at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. "P.L.A.C.E." is an acronym for **P**resbytery **L**eadership **A**cademy for **C**ongregational **E**nrichment.

This is a wonderful opportunity for many different types of church leaders (clergy, elders, deacons, and laity) and many different ages (Kids Kamp led by Ferncliff counselors, Youth workshops and/or mission projects, workshops for ministers and CREs). There are special savings for congregations that register groups for this event! Registration begins June 1.

For more information, [click here to download a brochure](#). For a workshop schedule, [click here](#).

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a mission program of PC(USA)

Where Does Your Disaster Contribution Go?

Many of you have given generously in support of the presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee (DPRC) and/or Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) response to the April 27 tornado in Ferndale, Paron, Mayflower, Vilonia, White Hill, etc. Thank you!

We anticipate using your money faithfully and with wise stewardship. For one thing, we will more than likely consider using some of those funds to help support Ferncliff in doing a residential Camp Noah (a therapeutic camp for kids).

You should also know what the DPRC has done with such funds in the past.

1) Contributions toward Ferncliff's Camp Noah budget for Joplin and other storm-ravaged

communities

- 2) Paying shipping costs for Church World Service kits and buckets after other disasters
- 3) \$10,000 set aside as grants to congregations who want to upgrade their congregational disaster preparedness capability
- 4) Building storage units for survivors of the 2008 tornadoes in Arkansas

PDA uses funds to

- 1) Provide grant money to presbyteries after disaster: grants from PDA have assisted with disaster recovery in Mena, United Campus Ministry at UA/Fayetteville, Ferncliff Camp (twice), Harmony Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Lyon College fire and First Arkadelphia.
- 2) Provide emotional and spiritual care after disaster
- 3) Promote long-term recovery in damaged communities; the DPRC used a PDA grant in Vilonia's long-term recovery three years ago
- 4) Set up and support hospitality for volunteer work teams

The DPRC and PDA use your monies to carry out God's work. If you know of specific needs, please email them to DPRC chair James Anderson at jandersonret@gmail.com

Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. Additional information is available at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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UCM in Fayetteville Celebrates Their Graduating Seniors

United Campus Ministry celebrated 17 graduating Seniors this Spring (12 of whom are pictured below)! If you have incoming Freshmen, please send us their names so we can send them a welcome gift!



Contact Rev. Susan Rose at ucm_chaplain@yahoo.com or call the UCM office at 479-442-8041. Go Hogs!

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2014 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 [BILL GALBRAITH](#)
Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)
Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)
Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)
Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [CLARE KELLEY](#)
Moderator of the General Committee [SHERÉE NIECE](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body 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 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, two new church developments and two fellowships 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>