

September 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Culture of Generosity"

As you make plans to travel to northeast Arkansas for the October 10-11, meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, be sure to include arriving at Jonesboro's First Presbyterian Church in time for the "Culture of Generosity" workshop to be offered on Friday, the 10th from 2:30 to 4 p.m.



Anticipating the event, co-leader, Sherry Kenney, Ministry Relations Office for the Presbyterian Foundation writes:

Friends, I am looking forward to being with you at your Presbytery meeting in Jonesboro in October, and to greeting in person those with whom I've communicated by phone and email.

Fall is coming, and with it, for most of you, your annual stewardship pledge campaign. While we at the Foundation urge churches to cultivate a year-round culture of generosity, we understand the practical benefit of the yearly opportunity for church members to engage in prayerful consideration and re-commit to the financial support of their church in the coming year.

As you plan your campaign, please consider these questions:

- * Are you offering your members and friends the option of online giving?
- * Are you using a narrative budget, with pictures and testimonials?
- * Are you taking generational differences into consideration when you invite giving?
- * Are you reminding faithful members to remember their church in their wills?

The Foundation has many resources at its website www.presbyterianfoundation.org, to assist pastors and stewardship chairpersons in planning and engaging the congregation in this annual program. And please remember to use me, your human resource. I welcome your calls and emails, and am available for meetings and events.

May God bless each of you until we meet.

Sherry Hester Kenney, Ministry Relations Officer

Sherry.kenney@presbyterianfoundation.org, 855-342-4130

Sherry's co-leader for the workshop, Kevin Keaton, is the Board of Pensions regional representative for the Synod of the Sun. Kevin will remain through most of the Presbytery meeting and be available to address matters related to Board of Pensions coverage.



Sherry Hester Kenney



Kevin Keaton

Looking forward to seeing you next month,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

September

- 9 First, Conway--Committee on Ministry
- 11 Little Rock--Arkansas Interfaith, First United Methodist Church
- 13-21 Vacation
- 24-25 Monticello--Vera Lloyd Board Meeting
- 28 Vaughn Presbyterian Church, Bentonville--Preach, lead worship, 175th Anniversary

October

- 2 Little Rock--Bishop's Lunch for Good Shepherd Retirement Center, St. Mark's Episcopal
- 5 First, Huntsville--Preach and lead worship
- 7-8 Stillwater, OK--Cimarron Presbytery Meeting and Executive Presbyter Forum
- 10-11 First, Jonesboro--Presbytery of Arkansas Meeting
- 12 First, Jonesboro--Worship
- 16-18 Louisville, KY--Annual Meeting Assoc. of Mid-Council Leaders
- 18-19 Louisville, KY--PCUSA Polity Conference
- 25-31 Hunt, TX--Continuing Education, Mo-Ranch
- 31-01 Irving, TX--Synod Meeting

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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 1stpresbytxk@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 Christian Education and Youth -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church of North Little Rock, Arkansas has begun a search for a creative, energetic person of faith interested in leading its ministries of Christian Education and Youth. The position is 20 hours per week, with salary and schedule negotiable. We are hoping to find one person interested in and able to lead both of these areas of ministry. Depending on applicants, however, the position might be split. Please send resumes to parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net. Questions or inquiries may be sent to the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington at (ggarlington3@hotmail.com or 501-940-8008).

Part Time Music Director -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to direct the chancel choir, hand bell choir, and praise band, with occasional youth/children's choir, meet with the pastor to plan music for worship, and direct all choir practices. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

Part Time Organist/Pianist -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to play the organ and piano for Sunday worship and other services as needed, work with the music director, and meet with the pastor to plan music for worship. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

Personnel Coordinator -- Presbyterian Village, a non-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community, is searching for a motivated candidate that is detail oriented, organized, able to multi task, proficient in time management and skilled in data entry. The ideal candidate will be great communicator, self driven, able to work independently and a team player with all levels of staff. The candidate will be very friendly with an outgoing personality and able to greet people easily. Long Term Care experience preferred but not required.

Qualified applicants should apply in person or send your resume to:
500 Brookside Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
Email: hr@presbyvillage.com
Fax: 501-225-0849

Job Applications are located on our website: www.presbyvillage.com

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People and Church News

News of Our People

- Rev. Jeff Cranton** has resigned as pastor of Westminster, Hot Springs, effective August 24.
- Rev. Camille LeBron Powell** has resigned as associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, effective Sept. 28. The family is moving to Decatur, GA (Greater Atlanta Presbytery) with the employment of Camille's husband Jonathan.
- Will Ritchie** is the new youth director at Wynne Presbyterian Church.
- Congratulations to **Britton and Chris Varn** on the birth of their son, Declan Travis Varn, on Aug. 30 in Little Rock. Proud siblings are Riley, Gracie and Kira Varn. Britton is the presbytery's staff resource to youth activities. While she is out on maternity leave, Mary Shaw, DCE at First, Springdale, will be acting youth staff resource.
- Congratulations to former moderator of Presbytery **Claire Rhodes** of Hot Springs who was elected by the General Assembly in June as a member of the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee, Class of 2016. She is a member of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village and presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry and serves West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia as commissioned ruling elder with her husband Kenneth.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

- Mountainburg Presbyterian** and **First, Van Buren** Presbyterian Women will co-host Cluster 6's Fall Gathering on Oct. 4 at Mountainburg.
- Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista's** annual collection of school supplies for area schools culminated with a Back to School Continental Breakfast on Aug. 16.
- First, Prairie Grove** offers children's worship activities bags.
- First, Hot Springs** is starting a handbell program.
- First, Newport** elders challenge Session members to invite someone new to worship each quarter.
- Wynne Presbyterian** served punch and cookies after worship recently to welcome their new members.
- First, Arkadelphia** held a re-dedication service on Aug. 24, unveiled an artwork using the original cross saved from the church fire and dedicated the new steeple in honor and memory of the Clark family.
- The Free Summer Food Service Program, held at **First, Morrilton**, ended successfully Friday,

August 15. Pictured with the church sign (below) are (from left) Annette Delaney, Ellie Warren, Transitional Pastor Guy Delaney, Burl Hurley, Wanda Delecerda, Baxter Sudduth, John Hogan, Ben Queen, and Charles Spivey.



--**First, Lonoke** began the discussion of Brian McLaren's book "A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are transforming the faith" on Sept. 7.

--**Holiday Island Presbyterian** is filling at least two of the emergency flood buckets that will be returned to the October 10-11 Presbytery meeting at First, Jonesboro.

--**First, Rogers** will welcome a student from Austin Theological Seminary on Sept. 21, Theological Education Sunday.

--**Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville** will celebrate their 175th anniversary on Sept. 28.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** will resume S.O.S. "Scripture Over Sandwiches" on the Gospel of Mark on Sept. 10 and their tutoring/mentoring program for local elementary school children on the third week in Sept.

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** Session recently established a Facilities Fund to maintain and operate their physical plant and will have a parking lot sale on Oct. 3 to support the choir trip in 2015.

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted this summer the Farmer's Market every Tuesday and Westover Wednesdays Food Trucks on the second Wednesday and has scheduled an Art Show on Sept. 27.

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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.



*** We only have 2 copies left of the 2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$13.75 each. ***

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.

Denomination announces new store and customer service number

--We have had several recent inquiries about changes being made in ordering/purchasing resources from the PC(USA) denominational office in Louisville, KY and wanted to pass along this information since many of our congregations order from the Louisville office. Congregational Ministries Publishing (CMP) and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) are now working together on distribution. To order and purchase curriculum and other items by phone, you may now call 800.533.4371. The new website, pcusastore.com, will launch on November 1 but is functional through PPC. Questions until then may be directed to curriculum@pcusa.org. A special offer of free shipping for Congregational Ministries Publishing curriculum of \$25 or more placed through pcusastore.com runs through October 31.

Unique, lasting way to honor your pastor

--October is Clergy Appreciation Month. What better way to recognize and honor your minister than by adopting and placing a book or DVD needed in the Presbytery Resource Center for use by our 86 congregations! Just call or email me and I'll let you know what we need. Then we will be glad to make the purchase and notify your pastor of your thoughtful gift.

How is your local church library doing?

--Several of our congregations throughout AR are reviving and reworking their local in-house church library. If you have done so successfully, please share your triumphs with me by phone or email so that I can pass along your best practices to those just beginning the process and to all readers of The Banner. Especially if you found methods, practices or resources that invited and increased usage of your church library, we would love to hear from you.

Check out these books for small groups this fall

"**Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers**" (Acc. #BK9824) by popular author Anne Lamott

"**Joy Boosters: 120 Ways to Encourage Older Adults**" (Acc. #BK9826)

"**The Answer to Bad Religion is not No Religion: A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics and Believers**" (Acc. #BK9828) by Martin Thielen accompanied by leader's guide

"**The Presbyterian Ruling Elder: An Essential Guide**" (revised for the New Form of Government) (Acc. #BK9830 or #BK9831) by Paul S. Wright. (Good timing with elder training coming up in many congregations this fall)

ONLINE RESOURCE HELP

Here is the link to the PARC Online Resource Center home page that shows updates for vetted online curricula made so far for early September: <http://www.parc-pcusa.com/online-resource-center.html>.

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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Stoking the Fires of Generosity: TPF's Biennial Development Conference

Texas Presbyterian Foundation invites you to join them on **Wednesday, October 1st from 10:00am to 3:00pm** for an educational and networking event featuring the wisdom and guidance of Rev. Karl Travis. Karl will cover such topics as Getting out of the stewardship rut; Talking the talk, walking the walk; Understanding your audience; The buck stops where?; and Hashtags, LOL, OMG, and more.

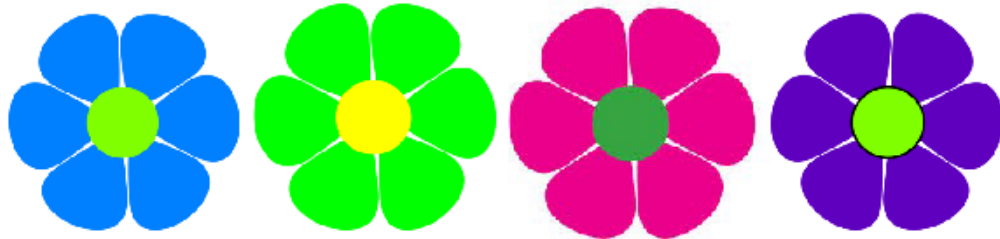
Please visit <https://www.tpf.org/events/event/stoking-the-fires-of-generosity-tpfs-biennial-development-conference/> for registration and additional information.

Texas Presbyterian Foundation is located at 6100 Colwell Blvd., Irving, TX, 75039.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

**Presbytery of Arkansas
Jr. High Youthquake 2014
September 26-28**



**Presby Family
Reunion!!
Luke 15: 11-32**

Open to all 6th-9th graders and their Adult Advisors

Keynote — back by popular demand: our
Presbytery's College Students!

Music — Steven McConkie

Energizers — Aaron and Sarah Hall

Register by Sept. 5: \$95 per youth/ Adult Advisor

Register by Sept. 12: \$105 per youth/ Advisor

\$80 per Leader Corps (10th-12th grade youth on
Youth Advisory Team and college students)

More information can be found at www.presbyteryofarkansas.org. Registration is done through churches!

Questions? Contact JHYQ Director Olivia McConkie at omcconkie@gmail.com or Mary Shaw, fill-in Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery, at mshaw59@cox.net.

Important Youth Ministry Dates

Please mark your calendar with these important dates for the year!

Jr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) -- Sept. 26-28
Youth Advisory Team Fall Meeting -- Nov. 1
Youth at Presbytery (U. of the Ozarks) -- Feb. 20-21
Sr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) -- March 13-15
Jr. High Jubilee trip to Mo Ranch -- July 5-9
Montreat Youth Conference trip -- July 26-Aug. 1

**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 Committee on Christian Education.)

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Faith and Grief Luncheons to Begin in November



Faith and Grief Luncheons to Begin in November at Second Presbyterian Church

When a loved one dies, one of the most common early reactions is an intense yearning, a sense that part of you is missing, and a hunger to have the person back. Sharing stories often provides solace and helps ease the heartbreak. Second church (600 Pleasant Valley Dr., Little Rock) is providing a place to share those stories.

Beginning in November, on the third Tuesday of every month, a Faith and Grief Luncheon will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Second Hall. People of all faiths are welcome to come.

Participants will experience:

- ❖ a supportive community of persons who have experienced the death of a loved one
- ❖ comfort through scripture and prayers
- ❖ encouragement through personal stories
- ❖ hope in sharing your feelings and experiences.

Registration for the November 18 luncheon will begin in October. If you are interested in receiving more information about Faith and Grief Ministry, contact Karen Akin at 501-227-0000 or karenakin@secondpreslr.org, or go on line to www.faithandgrief.org.

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Presbytery Mission Trip to Conway, AR

Who: Anyone (age 18 and older) is invited to go on this trip.

When: We will leave on Sunday, Nov. 9 and return Saturday, Nov. 15

What: While specifics are still unknown, most likely we will be doing clean-up and light construction assistance work.

Where: We will be working in the area of Conway, AR

Why: We want to help rebuild and restore hope to the people of the Conway area.

Cost: The cost is \$20/day or \$120/week. We will be housed at First Presbyterian, Conway

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:

October 29, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Susie Wright (501-262-9417)

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Becky Purcell Ordained and Installed as Co-Pastor at Prairie Grove



Rev. Becky Purcell was ordained and installed as co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Prairie Grove on Sunday, August 24th. Members of the Administrative Commission (and other friends) pictured are (left to right): TE Stewart Smith, Max Hill, TE Susan Rose, TE Jan Butin, TE Becky Purcell, Sam Warren, TE Georgia Senor, TE Phil Butin, David Mills, TE Clare Kelley and TE Nancy Benson-Nicol. Not pictured are: Bobby Cole and David Parks.

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First, Jonesboro to Host Presbytery Meeting

First Presbyterian, Jonesboro will host the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on Friday-Saturday, Oct. 10-11. Registration begins at 2 p.m. with one pre-presbytery workshop "Creating a Culture of Generosity" offered from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Meeting begins at 4 p.m. with opening business, vesper service and report of the Listening/Redesign Task Force docketed. Dinner will be served at 6:30 with live music and fellowship following. The meeting resumes at 8:30 a.m. Saturday with theological discussion over continental breakfast. At 9:00 worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is scheduled followed by continuing business with adjournment tentatively expected around the noon hour.

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United Campus Ministry Update

We are not through the first week of classes at the University of Arkansas, and already UCM has been busy!

--Our year started as a "rest station" with sorority recruitment, which runs the 8 days before school begins. 1,462 young women participated in sorority "rush," and most of them spent time in our building in between parties- cooling off, snacking and refilling their water bottles. (Pictures can be found on our Facebook page, UCM at the UofA!)

--We also hosted a "UCM Welcome (Back) Dinner" during move-in week for incoming freshman and returning students so they could meet one another and find out what was going on in our ministry this fall. 25 students attended.

--Becky Purcell was ordained in a beautiful ceremony on Sunday, 8/24 in the UCM sanctuary. She served as a Ministry Intern in the spring for UCM. She is now a Teaching Elder with First, Prairie Grove.

--Our first Monday lunch of the school year was a great success! We had a mix of new and returning students, totaling 35 all together.

--We are participating in several on-campus events to publicize our ministry.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

(United Campus Ministry receives funding from presbytery's Committee on Christian Education).

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Honor Vera Lloyd's Outgoing CEO Lyn Whaley

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' Board of Directors invites you to a retirement reception honoring Lyn Whaley, who has led the agency as CEO for 14 years and has been a part of its leadership team for 40 years.

The retirement celebration will be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Donna Mahurin will also be introduced as the agency's new CEO. Please RSVP by calling 501-666-8195.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to Vera Lloyd in Lyn's honor, you can do so at www.veralloyd.org or by mail at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, 1501 N. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72207.

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services' corporate offices and counseling center are located in Little Rock and its children's home is located in Monticello. Vera Lloyd provides residential housing for up to 48 youth at any one time and close to 200 youth every year. Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services operates on an annual \$2.3 million budget and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

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Retired Ministers Conference October 14-17

The Association of Retired Ministers Conference will be held October 14-17 at Excelsior Springs, MO. (Kansas City)

If you would like to attend, you don't have to be a member. You can register with "The Elms Hotel and Spa". Their contact numbers are 800-843-3567 or 816-630-5500.

Please plan to attend if you are retired and contact Ike Brighton with any questions: 501-680-0086.

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Synod of the Sun Sponsors Mission Convocation

The Synod of the Sun is organizing a Mission Convocation.

The Convocation will be held Saturday, November 8th at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX. The theme of the event is "Mission Possible--There is No Box." Keynote speaker is Vera White, with Bill Lawser giving a presentation on "Asset Mapping."

The early registration fee is \$15. For more details, [click here for a full brochure](#).

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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](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#) (Fill-in Youth Ministry Coordinator [MARY SHAW](#))

Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)

Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)

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>