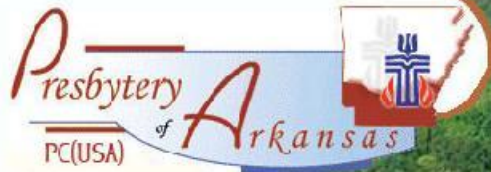


June 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"Hope, Soar, and Walk"

The 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA will convene in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 30 and conclude on July 7. The scriptural theme is from Isaiah 40:31: "But those who **hope** in the Lord will renew their strength. They will **soar** on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will **walk** and not be faint."

In preparation for the General Assembly, we members of this part of the body of Christ have been invited into a season of prayer. For the forty days leading up to the Assembly and through the week of its deliberations, let us join others in seeking that Holy Spirit grant a spirit of wisdom and boldness to all who have been chosen as commissioners. Pray particularly for those from this presbytery who are preparing for the high calling of seeking God's will on the many matters which come before the Assembly. Our commissioners are: Breck Castleman, (Teaching Elder, FPC, Siloam Springs), Richard Freer (Ruling Elder, FPC, Jonesboro), Jesse González (Teaching Elder, Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana, Springdale) and Claire Rhodes (Commissioned Ruling Elder, West End PC, Arkadelphia). Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Ryan Smith, from First Presbyterian of Springdale, Cathy Ulrich, stated clerk of our presbytery and I will also be in attendance.



A more familiar translation of Isaiah 40:31 mentions those who "wait" upon the Lord. Waiting, like hoping, is anticipatory. So as we look toward our church's gathering at the end of the month, might we look for the more that is not yet perceived. It is not empty waiting or wishful thinking but the expectation that the Lord, "help in ages past and hope for years to come," will be present with us on the banks of Pittsburgh's three rivers, the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio.

Gratefully yours,
Bill Galbraith
General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments in June & July
16 Mission Committee, FPC, Conway

17 Preaching, Central Presbyterian, Russellville
30-July 7 General Assembly, Pittsburgh
10 Committee on Ministry, FPC, Conway
24 Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, FPC, Conway

FERNCLIFF CAMP HOSTS 120TH STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

NiAnn Thompson, Assistant Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Arkansas convened Saturday morning, June 2, 2012 in the Christian Activities Building at Ferncliff Camp, Little Rock. Moderator Teaching Elder David Dyer called the meeting to order and the council moved to morning worship led by Teaching Elders Elizabeth Lindsey, Anne Russ, David Dyer, and Georgia Senor who preached, ruling elders Jay Hudkins and Jim Gooding, youth Graham Senor, with camp counselors providing music. Emphasizing meeting at camp and feeding the hungry, during this Ferncliff's 75th year, "Stop Hunger Now" sent 30,000 meals to be assembled over the weekend. The worship offering of \$1,584 was divided between Stop Hunger Now and the Backpack for Kids food program of AR Rice Depot. Thirty-two summer counselors at Ferncliff were charged, the five commissioners to the biennial meeting of the PCUSA General Assembly this summer in Pittsburgh were commissioned and Ruling Elder Sheree Niece, First, Clarksville was installed as vice moderator of the presbytery during worship. Registrants totaled 165 and ingathering items they brought will be used for "Gifts of the Heart" hygiene kits.



Left to right: General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith, Ruling Elder Sheree Niece (vice moderator of the presbytery), her husband Dr. Rick Niece (President, University of the Ozarks), and Dawn Scarborough of University of the Ozarks.



Ferncliff's summer camp counselors who were commissioned at presbytery meeting

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO:

- Approve self-selections of status for honorably retired ministers for 2012
- Concur with the Ferncliff Board in filling a vacancy
- Dissolve a commission that installed a pastor
- Endorse Ferncliff's \$3.5 million capital funds campaign
- Approve the request of First, Jonesboro to secure a loan from Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
- Permit Westover Hills, Little Rock to refinance its current mortgage at a lower rate
- Elect two persons to fill unexpired terms of office
- Approve recommendations by Committee on Representation to Committee on Nominations to choose more female nominees (to reflect the presbytery's membership) and invite staff and members of congregations not participating to do so by standing for election
- Renew the interim contract between First, Benton and Teaching Elder Dari Rowen
- Approve Teaching Elder Leslie Bethell Roper, who is the current associate pastor, as pastor at First, Batesville, her terms of call and the administrative commission to install her



Teaching Elder Leslie Bethell Roper (front row, second from right) with her husband Jeff (back row, far right), children (Jordan and Daniel), and members of First Presbyterian Church, Batesville.

- Enroll Teaching Elder Nancy Elizabeth (Liz) Lindsey (right) of Forrest City as a member-at-large
- Approve Teaching Elders Phillip Legg Blackburn and Tasha Leeann Blackburn as co-pastors of First, Fort Smith, their terms of call and the administrative commission to install them
- Dissolve the pastoral relationship between Teaching Elder Art Fogartie and First, Bentonville, effective May 27
- Commission to pastoral service Ruling Elders Carolyn Beane and G. Hartley Jones as CREs at Barr Memorial, Norman





CREs G. Hartley Jones (left) and Carolyn Beane (right)

-Recognize Presbyterian Musicians Association and include their information in the presbytery's church directory

PRESBYTERY CHANGED ITS DOCUMENTS:

So that the presbytery's "Manual of Operations" now refers to the Youth Advisory Team and the Resource Center Advisory Board, instead of listing them as "councils."

PRESBYTERY READ THE REPORT THAT:

-Minutes of the 2011 meetings of the Presbytery were approved by Synod without exception.

-Finances through April, 2012 were stable

-Clif Christopher will lead the presbytery in a stewardship event on the opening night of the next presbytery meeting, Friday, Oct. 12

-Ministries of six Teaching Elders were validated

-Teaching Elders Leslie Belden and Lee Power, honorably retired, were approved as parish associates at First United, Fayetteville

-Commissions of three Commissioned Ruling Elders were renewed through the end of the year

-Two academy graduates were added to the pulpit supply list

-CRE Roger Shields has resigned as pastor of First, Pocahontas

-Teaching Elder Anne Hagler, a member of Mid-South presbytery, was approved as

- stated supply and moderator at Wynne Presbyterian
- Applications to Youth Advisory Team are being sought by July 27
 - AR Presbyterian Pilgrimage October weekend welcomes attendees
 - Presbyterian Women are invited to the 2012-2013 Horizons Bible Study overview

PRESBYTERY HEARD THE REPORT THAT:

- The late Rev. Donn Walters was remembered in prayer
- A recently appointed investigating committee intends to file charges against the accused
- Appreciation was voiced for financial support of the presbytery's mission by congregations and budget hearing for 2013 is set for Aug. 11
- General Committee encouraged all to fill out evaluation forms for this meeting
- Background checks for adults accompanying youth to presbytery-sponsored events should be submitted before the deadline
- Children who are nurtured at camp, youthquakes and on summer trips may become young adults who blossom in campus ministries and then serve their local churches
- The Board of Pensions of the PC(USA) fund is secure and their staff seeks to support all of its members

After adjournment 19 ruling elders, most of whom were Commissioned Ruling Elders in particular churches or graduates of the former lay academy, attended a continuing education event sponsored by the Presbytery Academy subcommittee on "New Form of Government and the CRE."

**Request from Your Presbytery Disaster
Preparation and Response Committee**

Ferncliff's supply of hygiene kit supplies has gotten low. For two reasons, that's a problem: 1) recent storms and the threat of more as springtime progresses mean that people displaced by storms will need personal supplies and 2) the summer camping season has begun. An important part of kids' camp experience is assembling kits, and hygiene kits are the simplest to put together.

Supplies for Hygiene Kits are the following:

Hand towels measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)

Washcloths

Wide-tooth combs

Nail clippers

Bars of soap (bath size in wrapper)

Toothbrushes (in original packaging)

Standard size Band-Aids®

We also need one-gallon plastic bags with a zipper closure. Please do not add toothpaste. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Your including processing/Shipping Money, at \$2 per Kit, would be icing on the cake.

We thank you for supporting Ferncliff and the many people whom Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance serve together.

--The Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

People and Church News

News of Our People

--Inquirer in Ministry **Ethan Harbour** recently graduated from the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville with a BSE in economics and will pursue a master of divinity degree at Louisville Seminary. He is a member of First, Clarksville.

--**Rev. Susan Gray** has begun a three-month sabbatical leave financed by the Lilly Foundation Grant. She is pastor at Mountainburg Presbyterian.

--**Rev. Larry Mitchell**, pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City, is recuperating from surgery.

--**Rev. Carl McCormack**, pastor of First, Malvern, is recuperating after hospitalization.

--Christian sympathy goes to Ruling Elder **Marty Shepherd** of Dardanelle and family on the death of her grandson, Nathan Shepherd, age 6 on May 24. He was the son of Daniel and Amanda Shepherd and little brother of Tyson Shepherd, all of Alma. Marty is moderator of the presbytery's Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals.

News of Our Congregations

--**First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville** invite all sister congregations to come and hear Jeff and Christi Boyd, missionaries who have recently served in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Equatorial Guinea on Thursday evening, July 26, and stay for ice cream afterward.

--**First, Searcy** hosted a Sunday night wine club on May 20.

--**First, Morrilton** is one of the congregations that approved and collected the Pentecost Offering of the PC(USA) to assist at-risk youth and young adults who minister to youth.

--**First, Springdale** is organizing Dinner for 8 groups this summer.

--**First, Clarksville** honored their graduates on May 6.

--**First, Siloam Springs** hosted the community's National Day of Prayer service on May 3 on the church lawn.

--**Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** Session is studying their mission statement.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted the social at Presbyterian Village retirement center on May 21.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** held worship on Mt. Nebo on May 6 led by their youth.

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** will host a mini outdoor carnival with children's activities on June 7 for visitors to Hillcrest area shops and restaurants.
--Joint Vacation Bible School is planned by **First Presbyterian** and **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith; First, Alma** and an Episcopal church June 18-21.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2012 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).

Presbyterian Women News

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 document.)

(The PW Coordinating Team receives funding in the Presbytery budget.)

Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FOR YOUR SUMMER READING

"Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, A Righteous Gentile vs. The Third Reich" (Acc. #BK9603) by Eric Metaxas

"Same Kind of Different as Me: a modern-day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them together" (Acc. #BK9627)

"99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children" (Acc. #BK9599) by Kathleen Long Bostrom

"Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church" (Acc. #BK9647) by Kenda Creasy Dean

"Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith" (Acc. #BK9628) and **"Love Wins: A book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived"** (Acc. #BK9648), both by Rob Bell

"More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers" (Acc. #BK9633) and **"A 'Down and Dirty' Guide to Theology"** (Acc. #BK9634), both by Donald McKim

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL STUDIES

--For the smaller membership churches, choose from **"Children's Ministry Guide for Smaller Churches"** (Acc. #BK9637), **"Mission: The Small Church Reaches Out"** (Acc. #BK9638), **"Money, Motivation and Mission in the Small Church"** (Acc. #BK9639), **"Raising Small Church Esteem"** (Acc. #BK9640), **"Activating Leadership in the Small Church"** (Acc. #BK9641).

--**"Not Your Parents' Offering Plate"** (Acc. #BK9645) and **"Whose Offering Plate Is It? New Strategies for Financial Stewardship"** (Acc. #BK9649), both by Clif Christopher. He will be the plenary speaker at the October presbytery meeting

--**"Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear"** (Acc. #BK9525) book and small group discussion guide by Max Lucado

--We have a renewed supply of the **"Presbyterians Today"** magazine special issues "Welcome to the Presbyterian Church" and "What Presbyterians Believe" that make excellent gifts for visitors, curricula for confirmation or new members class and training for deacons and ruling elders. They are free to your churches!



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.

Watch for a notice after July 10 of "The Outlook's" summary of the 2012 General Assembly bulletin insert available FREE from the Resource Center.

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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

From the Committee of Care & Nurture of Church Professionals

For our Pastors who are in need of being pastored due to an illness or are the care-giver for a person with a life-threatening or life-altering medical condition, we are offering you help. But the Presbytery Committee on Care & Nurture of Church Professionals needs your help. We need names of people you know who have "been there" and are willing to volunteer with their experiences to pastor our pastors.

If you know of anyone, please contact Rebecca Spooner at the Laurence Schmidt Center (phone: 501-664-7777). The information will match up needs and our pastors can be cared for and nurtured.

TPF CFO Client Conference * June 20, 2012

This event is for CFOs, Controllers, Finance/Operational Officers and Church Treasurers.

For more information log onto www.tpf.org/events

or contact TPF directly at (800)955-3155 or (214)522-3155

Growing Personal Stewardship

Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts

Mark Your Calendar

TPF's Conference: **GPS**, *Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts*

Texas Presbyterian Foundation is hosting a two-day conference at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church located at 9800 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230.

Wednesday, September 26th from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

Thursday, September 27th from 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m.

Principal Speaker & Conference Leader:

Kathryn Miree

Presbyterian Elder and nationally recognized speaker on Estate & Planned Giving
Topics Will Include:

- * From Theory to Practice: Building a Church/Nonprofit Endowment
 - * Planned Giving Fundamentals
 - * Getting Started in Planned Giving
- * Talking to Donors About Endowment and Planned Gifts

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Conference Fee: \$75



PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

Resourcing Director & Assistant Stated Clerk [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [SHEREE NIECE](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)



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>