

From: Presbytery of Arkansas <kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org>

Subject: The Banner

Reply: kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

March 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"The One Question"

When judgment day arrives, Brennan Manning is convinced, "The Lord Jesus is going to ask each of us one question and only one question, 'Did you believe I loved you? That I desire you? That I waited for you day after day? Did you believe that I longed to hear the sound of your voice?' The real believers gathered will say, "Yes, I believe you loved me and I tried to shape my life in response to it."



At last week's Presbytery retreat at Ferncliff, Eric Hoey, Director of Evangelism and Church Growth for the Presbyterian Church (USA) introduced us to Manning's profound understanding of responding to the good news as we answer the question he puts on Jesus' lips, "Did you believe I loved you?"

Many who are faithful, Manning concludes, may talk about God's love, even preach sermons about God's love but remain skeptics. We may knock ourselves out advocating for those shortchanged when it comes to life's intended fairness. Because the call of Jesus has so gotten under our skin that we lose track of time, even forget our daughter's dance recital is the same night as the session meeting, we will do everything as if God's love hinges squarely on what we get done for Jesus. We're quite clear about wanting to be with the sheep, not the goats (see Matthew 25:31 ff). Yet, when we honestly answer that single question, we will say, "No, Lord, I didn't really believe you loved me. I did all these things hoping it was true but, no, I never really believed it."

What would change in us if we believed that God loves us as we are? How would our church work change? How would it be if we didn't pretend to have it all together and were confident that Jesus who knows all about our life screw-ups and half-hearted discipleship still loves us? What would be different if we gave up the prideful embarrassment over our paltry practices of spiritual discipline, our failure to keep promises, our pretense that the darkness with which we so often struggle doesn't exist? What if we began to believe that the gospel is true?

How would it be if we were confronted with a love so pure in its embrace that fear of unacceptability disappeared and gratitude sprang up in its place?

What would be different because unconditional love has ambushed us and we give in to it? Can you imagine life in Christ becoming a source of freedom instead of frustration, an experience of delight instead of drudgery, a movement outward rather than retreating inward, an enjoyment we cannot keep to ourselves?

I wonder if everything would become fresh and new, just as promised.

Grace always,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments in March

12-14 PCUSA Stewardship Kaleidoscope, Charlotte, North Carolina

18 Preach, Wynne Presbyterian

18 Installation of Lance Jones, FPC, Mena

21 Preach, Lenten Service, Faith PC, Horseshoe Bend

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 means that people displaced by storms will need personal supplies and 2) the summer camping season comes very soon. 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

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

"Message of Hope"
2012 Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
Saturday, April 28, 2012

9:00 AM Registration * Mission Displays * Refreshments

10:00 AM Worship * 11:00 AM Business Meeting * 11:15 AM Keynote Address

Lunch 12:30 PM followed by installation of new officers

Worship Leader: The Reverend Nancy Benson-Nicol

Teaching Elder, Chaplain at the University of the Ozarks

and author of the 2012-13 *Horizons* Bible study

Keynote Speaker: Karene Jones

A Glimpse of God's World -- PW Global Exchange

--Meeting and Getting to Know the Christian Women in India and Their Issues--

Lunch: \$8.50 -- Reservations should be received by April 20th. E-mail list of NAMES and Church to: Cissy Rose cissy.rosepw@gmail.com or call 479-785-1120 or mail to 2200 S T Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Pay luncheon fee at the door.

Nursery Provided: Reservations for childcare must be received prior to April 20th. Please include child(ren)'s names and age(s) with your registration. Please bring a sack lunch for your child(ren).

Cluster Mission Displays: Each Cluster will display a tri-fold poster identifying missions supported by the PWs in their Cluster -- so PWs, get your info to your cluster leader!

Greater Mission: An offering will be taken to support the Ladies Society of Chiapas, Mexico. These funds will help to pay the salary of a missionary leader for the 13 Ladies Societies of Chiapas, Mexico.

Plus Cokesbury Book Store Selections!

Looking Ahead:

PW 2012-13 *Horizons* Bible Study Overview

by author, Reverend Nancy Benson-Nicol

August 2, 2012 -- University of the Ozarks -- 10:30-2:30

Pink Hat Day

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Honoring our Presbyterian

Women and Friends of Vera Lloyd

10:00 am.....Campus Tours

11:00 am.....Registration

12:00-1:30 pm.....Lunch & Program

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home

Lyon Gymnasium

745 Old Warren Road

Monticello, AR 71655

You are cordially invited to enjoy YOUR day that will include:

Campus tours

Door Prizes

Youth Style Show

Awarding of the 3rd Annual "Traveling Pink Hat Award"

Annual judging of the "BEST" Pink Hat!

Seated Lunch provided (at tables) with your friends and youth!

Unmatched Fellowship, Frivolity and Inspiration

And, a few Surprises that we are keeping under our hat!

So decorate your pink hat, grab your friends & join us!

RSVP by April 1 to reneedickins@veralloyd.org or Regina at 877-353--6430

People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to Rev. Marci Ward and husband Billy of Clarksville on the death of his father Charles Ward in February. Marci is an at-large member of presbytery.

--Rev. Reinhold Schmidt, honorably retired member of the presbytery, greets friends in AR. and would appreciate cards and notes at his new residence: Broadwater Health Center, 110 North Oak, Townsend, Montana 59644.

--Rev. Donn Walters, honorably retired member of the presbytery, was honored on Feb. 26 by Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock for 20 years of faithful service as their stated supply.

--Hailey Travis of Conway has completed her service as youth director at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock and Marie Mainard O'Connell of Little Rock was begun duties there as interim youth director. Marie is a candidate for ministry.

--Christian sympathy goes to Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Bennett of Searcy on the death of his mother Donna Roberts on Feb. 27 in Kissimmee, FL. Dennis is an honorably retired member of the presbytery and is pastor emeritus of First, Searcy.

--Conner McMains is resigning in May as music director at Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock to pursue education out of state.

News of Our Congregations

--First, Yellville hosted a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing, with the men cooking and the youth serving.

--First, Morrilton participated in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey on vitality and strengths and is now reviewing their responses.

--First, Batesville families took a trip on Feb. 25 to the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock.

--First, Huntsville youth and adults plan a service trip to Vera Lloyd Children's Home in Monticello June 17-23.

--Central, Russellville hosted family skate night and a light supper on Sunday evening, March 4.

--Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock is studying "Discipleship: The Way of Jesus" during Lent, led by retired Certified Christian Educator Linda LeBron.

--Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock youth are doing a "family photo shoot"

fundraiser in April benefitting summer trips.

--Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood is sharing a Lenten study on Wednesday nights using "Open to Me the Gates" by Stated Clerk of the denomination Gradye Parsons.

--Graham Memorial, Forrest City, hosted the city's Church League Youth Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 10th. Members also put together "mac and cheese" meals for the Christ Food Task Force. These 2,700 adult-sized meals were delivered to the St. Francis County Food Pantry. For stories published by the Times-Herald of Forrest City, Arkansas, click [here](#) (for tournament story) and [here](#) (for picture of Graham Memorial members packing mac and cheese meals).

IDEA OF THE MONTH

--First, Springdale Session set goals of 2012 as: follow up with visitors, promote mission opportunities for adults, encourage a greater awareness of the church throughout the community, reach prospective new members, and involvement with Hispanic new church development.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2012 can be found [here](#).

Save the Date
Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage
(formerly Cursillo)
April 26-29

Fernduff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

(Pilgrimage receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Mo-Ranch College Connection

May 14-18

Are you a college student? Do you know any college students?

This summer college students will gather at Mo-Ranch to relax and recharge both in faith and friendship.

Director: Rev. Kendal Land, pastor, First, Arkadelphia

Co-Director: Rev. Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, University of Arkansas

More information can be found [here](#).

Presbyterian Women News
can be found [here](#).

(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.



RAVE REVIEWS (endorsements of resources used by our creative patrons)

- Lois Ault at First, Bentonville reports that the "study of world religions was a big hit with 20 in class." They used Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask" (Acc. #DVD9379 with book and leader's guide).
- Nancy Evans of Little Rock says her small study group endorses the DVD study "Christianity and Islam" (Acc. #DVD8575) which presents four 25-minute sessions with a companion guide.
- Rev. David Schaller at Faith, Horseshoe Bend is thankful "for an informative and intensive loan" of the revised editions of "Christian Doctrine" by Shirley Guthrie (Acc. #BK6383) which a small group studied for more than a year.
- Rev. Kenny Shaw at First, McGehee is glad that their adult Sunday School really liked the "Being Reformed: Islam and Christianity" 6-week booklet study. Kenny also shared two links he finds helpful: www.workingpreacher.org (From Luther Seminary, an ELCA school, whose Presbyterian seminary professors write commentaries on the lectionary readings) and www.enterthebible.org (Also sponsored by Luther Seminary but geared less toward preaching and more toward personal Bible study)
- Rev. Bob Hadley at Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay "ordered 25 of the Presbyterians Today (magazine special issue) 'Welcome to the Presbyterian Church' and used them for our Wed. evening fellowship study with great success and perhaps our most consistent attendance. We studied 4 or 5 pages at a time with good discussion and questions."

RESOURCES RECOMMENDED AT RECENT GATHERINGS which are in YOUR Resource Center

- "The Church and New Media" by Brandon Vogt on using social media to spread the gospel was recommended by Rev. Anne Russ
- One book recommended by guest plenary leader Dr. David Jones at the Feb. presbytery meeting was "Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being calm and courageous no matter what" by Peter Steinke (Acc. #BK8985)
- "True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In" by James Choung on evangelism was recommended by Rev. Eric Hoey, director of evangelism and church growth of the General Assembly Council, who spoke at the annual spring retreat (see Bill Galbraith's article). He also shared links to free resources on engaging people beyond the church at PCUSA.org/evangelism and at <http://db.tt/Z3qJDvL2>

NEW YOUTH RESOURCES FOR YOUR REVIEW

- Four "Veracity Video Vignettes" DVDs subtitled "life... faith... discuss" are discussion starters for youth accompanied by 16-page guides giving scripture and direction for great discussions. The video clips are just 1 to 3 minutes in length (Acc. #DVD8948, 9578, 9579, 9580)
- "Re:form" DVD and print studies for youth cover topics of Traditions; Bible, Creed, Discipleship; and Jesus and other Beliefs (Acc. #DVD9611 and 9612)

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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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>

[Forward to a Friend](#)



This email was sent to brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org by kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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