

May 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"Visits to Listen"

Your Committee on Ministry is beginning the process of arranging "Visits to Listen" with congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas. The purpose of these visits is to listen to our congregations and provide feedback to the congregations' sessions. You may recall that triennial visits with the sessions of each church in a presbytery were mandated by our former Form of Government. That requirement has been removed from the New Form of Government. Nevertheless, the importance of staying in touch with each other remains. Through these friendly visits, the Committee on Ministry hopes to build bridges of understanding and support within congregations and between congregations of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Volunteer team members are currently being oriented for these visits which we hope to begin within the next two months.



Camille LeBron Powell, Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock and a member of the Committee on Ministry, is the point person for scheduling the visits. Several congregations which have not recently been visited will be among the first to be invited to participate in a "Visit to Listen."

The process begins with communication with a particular congregation's session seeking to arrange a visit. On the invitation of the session, the listening team will consult with the moderator of the session to determine a time or times for the visits. Each listening session will be limited to twenty participants who will be asked to make a reservation to participate. Should there be more than twenty who wish to participate, another listening session will be scheduled. At the listening session, each participant will be invited to fill out a brief questionnaire which includes basic information as well as a set of questions about the particular church. Twenty minutes will be spent on the questionnaire. Upon completion of the questionnaire, the team members will lead a conversation among the participants. Each session will be for one hour.

Following the visit, the team will compile the responses and offer insights arising from them. This will be communicated to the moderator of the session and the session during a follow-up visit.

The next orientation session for volunteer visitors will be on Tuesday, May 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Presbytery office. Please contact Camille at (501) 227-0000 or me at (501) 663-2424 should you have questions.

Your partner in ministry,

Bill Galbraith

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments in May & June

May 12 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, Conway

13-18 Leadership Formation with PCUSA - Danville, California

18-20 High School Reunion - San Antonio, Texas

27 Preach, First Presbyterian, Little Rock

30 Vera Lloyd Board Meeting, Little Rock

June 02 Presbytery Meeting, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

03 Worship, St. Philip's Episcopal, Frisco, Texas

06 Jackson William Cook Lecture Series, Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City

16 Mission Committee, First Presbyterian, Conway

17 Preach, Central Presbyterian, Russellville

FERNCLIFF CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

On **Saturday, June 2**, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 120th stated meeting at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock. A pre-presbytery Q&A for cluster records review teams who will be reading session minutes and registers this summer will be led in Brown Center by Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich.

Registration begins at 8:15 in the Welcome Center at Ferncliff and gavel, business and worship will follow at 9:30 in the Christian Activities Building. Lunch is planned in the dining hall, and commissioners are reminded to dress casually and perhaps wear walking shoes though shuttles will be provided. Over lunch a workshop in "NFoG and Commissioned Ruling Elders" will be presented by the Presbytery Academy subcommittee for all interested ruling elders.

Worship offering will be divided between "Stop Hunger Now" which feeds international school children and "Food for Kids backpack program" of AR Rice Depot. Ingathering items requested are for Gifts of the Heart hygiene kits for Church World Service, which are assembled by Ferncliff campers: (see list of items in Disaster Committee article below).

Highlights will be the commissioning of vice moderator Sheree Niece, the commissioners to this summer's General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh and the summer camp counselors at Ferncliff.

The read-ahead packets for this presbytery meeting will be posted by May 12.

Continuing Education Event aimed at Commissioned Ruling Elders

Those ruling elders currently commissioned to pastoral service in churches and those ruling elders who graduated from any session of the Lay Academy training of the presbytery are invited to a continuing education event during the presbytery meeting on Saturday, June 2, at Ferncliff.

Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry, interim pastor at First and at Harmony Presbyterian Churches in Clarksville, will lead a one-hour seminar over lunch in Brown Center entitled "New Form of Government (NFoG) and the Commissioned Ruling Elder." All other ruling elders are welcome as space allows.

Register by emailing Rev. John E. King at pooch21@msn.com or mailing a note to 1235 N. Edgehill Drive, Fayetteville, AR. 72703.

Longtime Little Rock Pastor/Social Worker Dies

Rev. Donn Lee Walters of Little Rock, 65, an honorably retired minister member of the

Presbytery, died April 24, 2012 after a lengthy illness. A graduate of the University of Evansville, McCormick Seminary, and the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams School of Social Work, Donn combined parish ministry with social work, living out his entire career in Little Rock where he was ordained in 1975.

He led the Presbyterian Urban Council, Presbyterian Family Services, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and since 2002 was the clinical director, admissions director and director of therapeutic foster care at Methodist Children's Home. He served the community on boards of Stewpot, Our House, AR Planned Parenthood, SCAN and Rice Depot, among others.

In the denomination Donn served as stated supply at Sylvania Church, Ward; First, Stuttgart; Allison Memorial, Little Rock and for the last 21 years at Westminster Church, Little Rock. Active in ministries of witness, hunger, peace and child advocacy, Walters had labored on presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Polity, Witness and at his death was a member of the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture. He was known for his jaunty hats and child-friendly tie collection.

He is survived by his wife Amelia and four children, Rev. Brad Walters, Sarah Gardner, Ben Walters and Elaine Lund, his parents, two brothers and five grandchildren. A memorial service was held on April 27 at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. Donations in his memory may be made to Methodist Family Health, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Family Services, Westminster Presbyterian or AR Hospice.

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 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

Pink Rules the Day in Monticello!

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services was covered in pink during the 11th Annual Pink Hat Day festivities held Saturday, April 21, on the campus. The annual event is held to honor Presbyterian Women and their friends who have donated their time, talents and funds during the past year to Vera Lloyd.

This year a total of seventy-five women (and a few men) representing fifteen churches attended the event with staff and youth. The attendees are encouraged to decorate and wear pink hats to the event. After the annual "Pink Hat Parade", the "Best Pink Hat" award was given to Lillian Brooks of Holmes Chapel Presbyterian Church for her "cell phone" adorned pink hat.

Tours of the six campus homes, adorned in pink, were directed by the youth. The "Best Pinked-Up House" award was given to the Trimble Home again for the third year. Their home included pink curtains, hats, balloons, streamers, cupcakes and a pink cake. The youth and their House Parents joined in the fun by wearing white shirts with pink bowties. They also created "Trimbleland" where they served hotdogs,

popcorn and pink lemonade.

The "Traveling Pink Hat" award was presented to Kirk In The Pines Presbyterian Church from Hot Springs Village for their work with the Transition Home and its youth over the past year.

People and Church News

News of Our People

--**Susie Wiggins**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Arkansas, is graduating May 20th from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and has accepted a one-year chaplain residency at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock. She is a member of Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Commissioned Ruling Elder **Claire Rhodes** of Hot Springs has been named vice moderator of the General Assembly Procedures Committee for the 220th General Assembly meeting of the PC(USA) set for June 30-July 7 in Pittsburgh. Claire serves as CRE with her husband Kenneth at West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia and they are members of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village. Claire moderated the presbytery in 2009.

--Rev. Dr. **Dari Victoria Rowen**, Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Benton, Arkansas, has been tapped to serve on the McCormick Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Council in the position of President-Elect. In her capacity on the Council she will also sit on the Board of Trustees of the seminary. She will be serving a three-year term. Dr. Rowen earned both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree through McCormick Seminary, a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA) located in Chicago, Illinois.

News of Our Clusters

--Cluster V congregations (south central AR) will have their annual session records (minutes and registers) review on Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m. at First, Malvern. All other clusters are encouraged to follow suit in their geographic clusters.

--Cluster elections will be held in Clusters I (northwest AR), Cluster II (northcentral AR), and Cluster III (northeast AR) before August 1 to choose representatives to Committee on Clusters and General Committee to serve in 2013-2015. Teaching elders are needed from Cluster II for General Committee and from Clusters I and III for Committee on Clusters, and ruling elders are needed from Cluster II for Committee on Clusters and from Clusters I and III for General Committee.

News of Our Congregations

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** is studying Islam and Judaism in their Wed. afternoon discipleship class.

--**Westminster, Hot Springs** welcomed six new members in their confirmation class, 2012.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** sold Mother's Day cards from Presbyterian Women for Healthy Women/Healthy Families which addressed malaria prevention, obstetrical care, health screenings, childhood immunization and nutrition.

- First, Newport** published a newsletter article on the Trinity.
- First, Pine Bluff** hosted a PCUSA missionary from the Congo on April 15.
- First, Jacksonville** has begun a team to work at The Stewpot feeding ministry every third Friday of the month.
- First, McGehee** has a long-term relationship with the young men of Lewis House at Vera Lloyd Children's Home under which the students attend church on fellowship meal Sunday, share pizza and make ornaments, bake cookies and use a new basketball goal.
- First, Benton** will be hosting a Homecoming Celebration on Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012. Former members and pastors, friends, family, visitors, and everyone is invited! Sunday School, for all ages, begins at 9:30 and worship at 10:45 with fellowship time in-between. Worship will include a presentation of a brief history of the congregation by lifetime member Arlene Rainey. Worship will be followed by an old-fashioned hymn sing and a meal on the grounds.
- Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville** insulated their attic and duct work below the floor and installed a vapor barrier.
- First, Jonesboro** hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on May 6 followed by the youth pancake breakfast.
- First, Walnut Ridge** published "Year of the Bible" readings for the second quarter in a recent newsletter.
- First, Prairie Grove** is designing a quick response plan in case threatening weather occurs while the church is in use.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

--**First, Fort Smith** has a Pastor's Discretionary Fund that helps families in the congregation with financial needs through donations from the church family which are tax deductible if the donor does not specify a particular need or a particular family.

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).

Save the Date 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](#).

(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.

MORE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PRESBYTERY'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

--"What's in the Bible" DVD series for children by Phil Vischer with characters similar to the Veggie Tales level of animation, explain "about" the Bible such as who wrote it, how it was assembled.

--"Praying with the Body: Bringing the Psalms to Life" (Acc. #DVD9465) guides viewers step-by-step in using motion, together with the vibrant words of the Psalms, to reinvigorate your daily prayer life. (For older viewers many of the motions can be done seated.)

--"Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens" (Acc. #BK9081) was developed by 18 teens and 18 adults who tackle "a way to live that keeps me involved in what God is doing in me and in the world". Topics include bodies, stuff, food, creativity, work, play, truth, choices, friends, justice, music, grieving and others.

--Websites: <http://www.endhunger.org> (free, downloadable material from Society of St. Andrew), <http://pachem.org> (collegiate ministry), --Union Presbyterian Seminary <http://storypath.wordpress.com> (access children's resources using literature and follow the lectionary)

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER READING

--Paul Nixon's book "I will not lead a dying church"

-- Tim Owens' "The Search Committee" The first novel of a former Southern Baptist who is now a Presbyterian elder. "A mismatched team of seven hit the road in an Econoline church van on a mission to find a new pastor."

--Frederick Buechner's "The Yellow Leaves: A Miscellany"

--Allan Hugh Cole Jr.'s "Good Mourning: Getting through Your Grief"

--Elizabeth Liebert's "The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making"

--Kathleen Long Bostrom's "Finding Calm in the Chaos: Christian Devotions for Busy Women"

--Robert McAfee Brown's novel for those who believe in love beyond death "Dark the Night, Wild the Sea"

--Greg Garrett's "The Gospel according to Hollywood"

--Marilyn McCord Adams "Opening to God: Childlike Prayers for Adults"

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



[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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



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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>