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November 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

Your Support is Appreciated!

As we move toward the end of the year, thank you for your support of the mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Your gifts toward the shared mission of this presbytery enable us to do more together than any of us could do alone.

Many youth who participated at the presbytery-sponsored YouthQuakes or who traveled by bus to Jubilee at Mo-Ranch or Montreat's senior high gathering will remember through the years that these events helped shape vocational and relational choices. But more significant, it was during these experiences, they will report, that they experienced faith in such a winsome way they came to believe that God is real and that life in relationship to Christ and the community of faith has become their most cherished gift.

Ruling Elders will recall the new insight for leadership gained at the Small Church Retreat and the help they received from Committee on Ministry volunteers during a stressful congregational challenge.

Other youth and adults will think back on 2011 as the year they took part in the trip to the Presbytery of Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico and witnessed first-hand the commitment of brothers and sisters to sharing the Good News. They will recall witnessing "how they loved each other," worked to better their communities and shared what they had with generous hearts. These will know that they didn't come home unchanged.





Some will recall the time at a particular meeting of the Presbytery, when a word spoken or sung stirred their hearts to renewed commitment to serve God in their small membership church.

Yet others will think about the ways that the compassionate people of the Presbytery of Arkansas responded when the winds blew destruction through Vilonia, Cincinnati and Hot Springs Village and the floods engulfed houses and fields around Holly Grove and Newport.



Being church together is our visible affirmation of our need for each other. It is God's regular reminder that we are not really at our best when going it alone.

Thank you for all you are and all you are doing. Thank you for your gifts of money, time and hearts made stronger as they continue to reach out as with one pulse.

Gratefully yours in faith,

[Bill](#)

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 13 Preach with Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 13-15 Committee on Ministry Retreat, Ferncliff
 16 Strategic Planning Committee, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas
 Installation of Dick Powell, Mo-Ranch President
 17-19 Board of Trustees, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Several years ago our church building suffered devastating damage in a brutal hail storm that left all of the west-facing surfaces and the roofs of all of the buildings damaged. Random window panes of the sanctuary were punched out, as if rocks had been thrown through them.

The repair work has now been completed. The good news is that the Building & Grounds Committee adhered to a Book of Order mandate: keeping adequate insurance coverage. After a very manageable deductible, our insurance paid for virtually everything, including clean-up.



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- + Record of Election of Commissioners to Presbytery and their report back to the Session
- + Authority for, and record of, all celebrations of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If administered to shut-ins the record should so state.

This last one has particular emphasis:

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The Annual Statistical Report forms will be emailed to each congregation. The passwords have changed. Please be looking for this communication from the Presbytery office.

Your presbytery staff is available to assist you if you have questions about any of these areas. The church records are also legal records which are admissible, and have been used, in secular courts. However, that is not the reason to keep them in good form. We have a covenant commitment to attend to these tasks as a reflection of how we organize our work as a community of faith.

These items may seem to have little importance, until the day when we need to access this information, or one of these items of business needs attention, but was allowed to lapse. In our particular situation in our

local church -- had our alert Building & Grounds Committee not kept us on track with our insurance company, our story might be a different one today.

Blessings & peace

[Cathy](#)

Henager Installed as First Presbyterian, Heber Springs Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Al Henager as pastor on Sunday, October 23. They are (front) Rev. Ruskin Falls, Rev. Henager and spouse Katy Bates, Ruling Elders Pam Matthews and Charlotte Hipp, and (back) Revs. Jeff Price and Rebecca Spooner, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, and Rev. Dennis Bennett.

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Lyon College, Batesville to Host 119th Stated Meeting of Presbytery Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

Pre-Presbytery Workshops to be announced will be offered. Other presentations will be made by Dr. David Jones from Austin Seminary on conflict mediation and Andrew Black, new director from Constitutional Services of the PC(USA).

Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and installation of Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Dyer and the presence of Youth at Presbytery delegates will be other highlights.

Orientation of Church Professionals New to the Presbytery



Annual orientation was held on Friday, October 14 at First Presbyterian, Conway prior to the Presbytery meeting. Pictured are General Presbyter Rev. Bill Galbraith; Rev. Andy King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Larry Mitchell, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City; Rev. Melissa McNair King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Nancy Taylor, First, Mountain Home; Rev. Jan Butin, First United, Fayetteville; Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith; Rev. Rita Wilson, First, Yellville; Rev. Lance Jones, Member-at-Large; Angela Grear, First, Rogers; Rev. Chris Jones, First, Jonesboro; Commissioned Ruling Elder Jim Hays, Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins; Joel Gill, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock. Not pictured is Rev. Joy Carrington, Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton. In addition to presentations by Rev. Galbraith and Moderator Highsmith, presentations were made by Rev. Gordon Garlington, Mission Committee; Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center; Rev. David Gill, Ferncliff; Rev. Susan Gray, Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals; Rev. David Dyer on the history of the Presbytery; Rev. Bill Bailey, Committee on Ministry; and members of the Presbytery staff.

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by [Rev. Jesse Gonzalez](#), evangelist

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CPH ministry has prevailed over many challenges that the Hispanic community has been facing, particularly over the last three years of the current economic crisis. Nevertheless, CPH represents a strong support for the families and individuals attending as well as a strong witness of our denomination and Presbytery commitment to reach out for immigrants of other cultures and traditions.



At this moment all churches in the Presbytery have received, to the attention of pastors and clerks of session, a letter asking for financial support in 2012. Both the NCD administrative commission and CPH congregation pray for your generosity in the midst of this economic crisis affecting us all. Please help us to keep alive the outreach to our Hispanic sisters and brothers in northwest Arkansas and eventually to other areas in our Presbytery.

¡Dios proveerá / God will provide!

Prayer List for Congregations - 2011 can be found [here](#).

Stewardship

by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

Those of you who were not in attendance at the October 14-15 meeting of Presbytery at First, Conway missed the introduction of Presbytery's stewardship video [Bridge Building](#).

The film highlights the diversity of our Presbytery and denomination, and the commitment of many people. As the words in a joint letter from the Committee on Administration and the General Presbytery said "Remember that tithing is about much more than meeting a budget. It is an avenue for deepening faith and tangibly expressing gratitude to God."



Save the Date

"A New Journey Begins"

Northwest Arkansas Cluster Confirmation Retreat

February 3-4 (Friday 7:00 p.m. - Saturday 2:00 p.m.)

United Campus Ministry Center, 902 W. Maple St., Fayetteville

Cost: \$20/youth Registration forms will be sent in early January, deadline is January 20th.

For more information: Kristi Button kbutton@fupcfay.org or Mary Shaw mshaw59@cox.net

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (formerly Cursillo)

April 26-29

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

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

Opportunities

Church Business Administrator

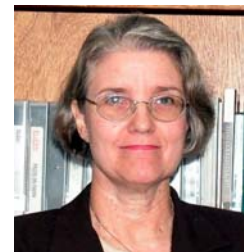
Second Presbyterian, Little Rock seeks applicants to serve as its Business Administrator. This position oversees church finances and manages support staff, and requires a degree in accounting and/or comprehensive financial experience. Prior management experience and excellent interpersonal skills are also required.

Beginning salary is between \$50-\$60K. Benefits include a fully-funded family health care plan and a fully-funded defined benefit pension plan.

More detailed requirements and information can be viewed on the church website [here](#).
Applications can only be submitted electronically as detailed on the website.

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.



TIME FOR TRAINING OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

If you're a busy pastor or just the moderator of the Session in another congregation, how do you find time - and resources - to train your new elders and deacons using the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order: 2011-2013? Let YOUR Resource Center help! We have three studies that can be emailed or mailed to you this month from www.thepresbyterianleader.com, online studies created by the PC(USA).

1) **"The Awesome Task of Elder"** by Ruling Elder Cindy Bolbach, current moderator of the PC(USA), examines Parity between Ministers and Elders, Privilege and Responsibility, and the Challenges for Ruling Elders.

2) **"The Approved Presbyterian New Form of Government"** looks at What is Polity?, Councils as an Expression of the Unity of the Church, The New Form of Government, The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, What's in It?, Questions to Consider as You Read the Foundations, and The Form of Government (6 chapters, each with the heading "what's new" and "questions to consider")

3) **"Selecting and Preparing Ruling Elders and Deacons"** is divided among sections on why we prepare and examine leaders for ordination in the church; how councils (session, presbytery, synod, General Assembly) are called to determine the leader's ability and commitment; and practical applications for what sessions should do in preparation and examination of ruling elders and deacons.

Other resources are available from YOUR Resource Center on the [Book of Confessions](#), Presbyterian history, doctrine and government via the special issue of [Presbyterians Today](#) magazine entitled "What Presbyterians Believe."

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

Recommended by the network of Resource Center Directors I respect are: From the "Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding" curriculum series of the denomination **"Discipleship: The Way of Jesus"** adult study with leader's guide and six session student book and **"Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches"** (Acc. #BK7430) by Thomas G. Bandy.

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS BOOKS

- **"From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light"** (Acc. #BK9541) by beloved author Ann Weems and subtitled 'Poetry for Worship, Study, and Devotion' is a favorite for Presbyterian Women.
- **"Come, See the Wonder"** (Acc. #BK9510) collects four complete Christmas programs for children at church.
- **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"** (Acc. #BK9504) weaves an illustrated story of the writing of "Adeste Fideles" with the story of Jesus' birth.
- **"Mary, Did You Know"** (Acc. #BK with music CD9502) is an illustrated book for teenagers based on the gospel song.
- **"The Legend of the Christmas Tree"** (Acc. #BK9515) is an older children's book beautifully telling the inspiring story of a treasured tradition.
- **"Christmas Gifts that won't break: An Advent Study"** (Acc. #BK9482) by master storyteller James W. Moore is an all-church, four session study with a book for adults, one for youth and one for children so that the whole congregation is looking at hope, love, joy and peace on the way to Christmas.

Click [here](#) to view the video of the Christmas Joy Offering next month in many congregations.

(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 [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)
Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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>

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For more information: Kristi Button kbutton@fupcfay.org or Mary Shaw mshaw59@cox.net

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April 26-29

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

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by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [BRIAN PERRY](#)

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Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
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November 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

Your Support is Appreciated!

As we move toward the end of the year, thank you for your support of the mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Your gifts toward the shared mission of this presbytery enable us to do more together than any of us could do alone.

Many youth who participated at the presbytery-sponsored YouthQuakes or who traveled by bus to Jubilee at Mo-Ranch or Montreat's senior high gathering will remember through the years that these events helped shape vocational and relational choices. But more significant, it was during these experiences, they will report, that they experienced faith in such a winsome way they came to believe that God is real and that life in relationship to Christ and the community of faith has become their most cherished gift.

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Being church together is our visible affirmation of our need for each other. It is God's regular reminder that we are not really at our best when going it alone.

Thank you for all you are and all you are doing. Thank you for your gifts of money, time and hearts made stronger as they continue to reach out as with one pulse.

Gratefully yours in faith,

[Bill](#)

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A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Several years ago our church building suffered devastating damage in a brutal hail storm that left all of the west-facing surfaces and the roofs of all of the buildings damaged. Random window panes of the sanctuary were punched out, as if rocks had been thrown through them.

The repair work has now been completed. The good news is that the Building & Grounds Committee adhered to a Book of Order mandate: keeping adequate insurance coverage. After a very manageable deductible, our insurance paid for virtually everything, including clean-up.

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These items may seem to have little importance, until the day when we need to access this information, or one of these items of business needs attention, but was allowed to lapse. In our particular situation in our



local church -- had our alert Building & Grounds Committee not kept us on track with our insurance company, our story might be a different one today.

Blessings & peace

[Cathy](#)

Henager Installed as First Presbyterian, Heber Springs Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Al Henager as pastor on Sunday, October 23. They are (front) Rev. Ruskin Falls, Rev. Henager and spouse Katy Bates, Ruling Elders Pam Matthews and Charlotte Hipp, and (back) Revs. Jeff Price and Rebecca Spooner, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, and Rev. Dennis Bennett.

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Lyon College, Batesville to Host 119th Stated Meeting of Presbytery Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

Pre-Presbytery Workshops to be announced will be offered. Other presentations will be made by Dr. David Jones from Austin Seminary on conflict mediation and Andrew Black, new director from Constitutional Services of the PC(USA).

Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and installation of Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Dyer and the presence of Youth at Presbytery delegates will be other highlights.

Orientation of Church Professionals New to the Presbytery



Annual orientation was held on Friday, October 14 at First Presbyterian, Conway prior to the Presbytery meeting. Pictured are General Presbyter Rev. Bill Galbraith; Rev. Andy King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Larry Mitchell, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City; Rev. Melissa McNair King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Nancy Taylor, First, Mountain Home; Rev. Jan Butin, First United, Fayetteville; Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith; Rev. Rita Wilson, First, Yellville; Rev. Lance Jones, Member-at-Large; Angela Grear, First, Rogers; Rev. Chris Jones, First, Jonesboro; Commissioned Ruling Elder Jim Hays, Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins; Joel Gill, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock. Not pictured is Rev. Joy Carrington, Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton. In addition to presentations by Rev. Galbraith and Moderator Highsmith, presentations were made by Rev. Gordon Garlington, Mission Committee; Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center; Rev. David Gill, Ferncliff; Rev. Susan Gray, Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals; Rev. David Dyer on the history of the Presbytery; Rev. Bill Bailey, Committee on Ministry; and members of the Presbytery staff.

McGehee Centennial Celebration



First Presbyterian, McGehee celebrated their Centennial on October 2 with more than 140 people in attendance. Rev. Kenny Shaw serves as pastor.

People and Church News

News of Our People

- Congratulations to **Rev. Leslie Roper and husband Jeff** on the birth of their second child, a son, Daniel Hollis Roper on Oct. 14. Leslie is associate pastor of First, Batesville, and Jeff is a member of Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- **Jamie Randall** has begun duties as the part-time youth director at First, Hot Springs.

News of Our Congregations

- **First, Benton** composed a new mission statement and will have an organ/violin recital on Nov. 11.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** held their annual Pet Blessing Service on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23.
- **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** asks members to bring a friend to their Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 13.
- **First, Malvern's** children used their wagons to collect donations for a local food pantry during worship on Oct. 16, World Food Day and Children's Sabbath.
- **First, Clarksville** hosted University of the Ozarks students who moved furniture, trimmed, raked and pruned landscaping.
- **First, Batesville and Lyon College** joined together for a community service of the Kirkin' (blessing) 'o the Tartans Oct. 23 at Brown Chapel.
- **First, Harrison** will hold a Churchwide Bazaar on Nov. 12 with proceeds going to the Building Fund.
- **First, Jacksonville** will collect money for the Backpack for Kids program of Arkansas Rice Depot.
- **First, Walnut Ridge** men will gather for the third Wednesday this month and the congregation will decorate the church for Advent on Nov. 20.
- **Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins** recalled their members who have passed away at an All Saints' Day service this month.
- **First, Prairie Grove Presbyterian Women** are conducting egg sales to support mission projects.
- **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** welcomed new members at their church picnic on Oct. 30.
- **First, Morrilton** recently renovated the choir room and continues to renovate the kitchen.
- **First, Fort Smith** distributed through email and in print a 14-day devotional booklet leading up to Stewardship Commitment Celebration on Nov. 6.
- **Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** will be organizing and hosting its second annual Community Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving day. Last year 427 meals were served with turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings (plus meals for the 50 volunteers). In light of the current economy, it is anticipated that 600+ persons will be served this Thanksgiving day with a wider diversity of diners, both racially and socio-economically. At present, donations from other community churches and various organizations and individuals include: 50 turkeys, 30 trays of dressing, 30 gallons of green beans, 30 gallons of corn, 600 individual rolls, gallons of mash potatoes and gravy, and 75 pies. In addition, volunteers from the St. Francis Counsel on Domestic Violence will be on hand to counsel those who have experienced domestic abuse. Volunteers from a local cooperative clinic will also be present to take blood pressures and

to offer glucose, sickle cell, and cholesterol screenings.

- The Presbyterian Players of the **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** presented "Uncle Phil's Diner" for their Fall dinner theater on October 28-30. Approximately 350 people were in attendance for the three performances.

Ideas of the Month

- Northwest Arkansas youth groups traveled to the **United Campus Ministry** center in Fayetteville for Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday night, Nov. 6.

- **First, Huntsville's Presbyterian Women** are holding a "Soup's On" fundraiser in November to make and deliver homemade soup and bread to offices and shops in the downtown area.

Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

by [Rev. Jesse Gonzalez](#), evangelist

Presbytery's Hispanic New Church Development, Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana (CPH), located in northwest Arkansas is the only Hispanic outreach in the Presbytery. CPH has been hosted by First, Springdale since its first worship service held on Sunday, October 15, 2006. On Sunday, October 9, 2011 CPH held its fifth anniversary thanksgiving service, along with a grilled chicken fundraiser sale.

CPH ministry has prevailed over many challenges that the Hispanic community has been facing, particularly over the last three years of the current economic crisis. Nevertheless, CPH represents a strong support for the families and individuals attending as well as a strong witness of our denomination and Presbytery commitment to reach out for immigrants of other cultures and traditions.



At this moment all churches in the Presbytery have received, to the attention of pastors and clerks of session, a letter asking for financial support in 2012. Both the NCD administrative commission and CPH congregation pray for your generosity in the midst of this economic crisis affecting us all. Please help us to keep alive the outreach to our Hispanic sisters and brothers in northwest Arkansas and eventually to other areas in our Presbytery.

¡Dios proveerá / God will provide!

Prayer List for Congregations - 2011 can be found [here](#).

Stewardship

by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

Those of you who were not in attendance at the October 14-15 meeting of Presbytery at First, Conway missed the introduction of Presbytery's stewardship video [Bridge Building](#).

The film highlights the diversity of our Presbytery and denomination, and the commitment of many people. As the words in a joint letter from the Committee on Administration and the General Presbytery said "Remember that tithing is about much more than meeting a budget. It is an avenue for deepening faith and tangibly expressing gratitude to God."



Save the Date

"A New Journey Begins"

Northwest Arkansas Cluster Confirmation Retreat

February 3-4 (Friday 7:00 p.m. - Saturday 2:00 p.m.)

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by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

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



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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [BRIAN PERRY](#)

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Staff Resource for Youth [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
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Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)
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November 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

Your Support is Appreciated!

As we move toward the end of the year, thank you for your support of the mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Your gifts toward the shared mission of this presbytery enable us to do more together than any of us could do alone.

Many youth who participated at the presbytery-sponsored YouthQuakes or who traveled by bus to Jubilee at Mo-Ranch or Montreat's senior high gathering will remember through the years that these events helped shape vocational and relational choices. But more significant, it was during these experiences, they will report, that they experienced faith in such a winsome way they came to believe that God is real and that life in relationship to Christ and the community of faith has become their most cherished gift.

Ruling Elders will recall the new insight for leadership gained at the Small Church Retreat and the help they received from Committee on Ministry volunteers during a stressful congregational challenge.

Other youth and adults will think back on 2011 as the year they took part in the trip to the Presbytery of Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico and witnessed first-hand the commitment of brothers and sisters to sharing the Good News. They will recall witnessing "how they loved each other," worked to better their communities and shared what they had with generous hearts. These will know that they didn't come home unchanged.





Some will recall the time at a particular meeting of the Presbytery, when a word spoken or sung stirred their hearts to renewed commitment to serve God in their small membership church.

Yet others will think about the ways that the compassionate people of the Presbytery of Arkansas responded when the winds blew destruction through Vilonia, Cincinnati and Hot Springs Village and the floods engulfed houses and fields around Holly Grove and Newport.



Being church together is our visible affirmation of our need for each other. It is God's regular reminder that we are not really at our best when going it alone.

Thank you for all you are and all you are doing. Thank you for your gifts of money, time and hearts made stronger as they continue to reach out as with one pulse.

Gratefully yours in faith,

[Bill](#)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule
 12 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, First, Conway
 13 Preach with Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 13-15 Committee on Ministry Retreat, Ferncliff
 16 Strategic Planning Committee, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas
 Installation of Dick Powell, Mo-Ranch President
 17-19 Board of Trustees, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Several years ago our church building suffered devastating damage in a brutal hail storm that left all of the west-facing surfaces and the roofs of all of the buildings damaged. Random window panes of the sanctuary were punched out, as if rocks had been thrown through them.

The repair work has now been completed. The good news is that the Building & Grounds Committee adhered to a Book of Order mandate: keeping adequate insurance coverage. After a very manageable deductible, our insurance paid for virtually everything, including clean-up.



We are aware, however, of other congregations who have stories of living through storms, and costly repairs, and inadequate insurance coverage.

It is the responsibility of each member of the congregation, and particularly each session member, to make certain that session records are current. The checklist may be found on the Presbytery's website [here](#).

These are a few of the requirements that are included on the list to make records complete:

- + Each year there shall be a statement of property and liability insurance coverage in effect
- + Record of the examination of the church financial records
- + An understandable term rotation system for officers, or evidence exemption by the Presbytery
- + Record of Election of Commissioners to Presbytery and their report back to the Session
- + Authority for, and record of, all celebrations of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If administered to shut-ins the record should so state.

This last one has particular emphasis:

- +A record of the Annual Statistical Report being reviewed by the session prior to submitting to Presbytery, and a summary of the report included as a permanent part of the Session records.

The Annual Statistical Report forms will be emailed to each congregation. The passwords have changed. Please be looking for this communication from the Presbytery office.

Your presbytery staff is available to assist you if you have questions about any of these areas. The church records are also legal records which are admissible, and have been used, in secular courts. However, that is not the reason to keep them in good form. We have a covenant commitment to attend to these tasks as a reflection of how we organize our work as a community of faith.

These items may seem to have little importance, until the day when we need to access this information, or one of these items of business needs attention, but was allowed to lapse. In our particular situation in our

local church -- had our alert Building & Grounds Committee not kept us on track with our insurance company, our story might be a different one today.

Blessings & peace

[Cathy](#)

Henager Installed as First Presbyterian, Heber Springs Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Al Henager as pastor on Sunday, October 23. They are (front) Rev. Ruskin Falls, Rev. Henager and spouse Katy Bates, Ruling Elders Pam Matthews and Charlotte Hipp, and (back) Revs. Jeff Price and Rebecca Spooner, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, and Rev. Dennis Bennett.

Jones Installed as First Presbyterian, Jonesboro Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Chris Jones as pastor on Sunday, October 30. They are Ruling Elders Don Eilbot, Robbie Benton, and Geoff Ryken, Rev. Debra Carl Freeman, Rev. Jones, Rev. Anne H. K. Apple, Ruling Elder Vernon Drake, and Revs. Reggie Weaver, Leslie Roper and Debbie Spangler.

Lyon College, Batesville to Host 119th Stated Meeting of Presbytery Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

Pre-Presbytery Workshops to be announced will be offered. Other presentations will be made by Dr. David Jones from Austin Seminary on conflict mediation and Andrew Black, new director from Constitutional Services of the PC(USA).

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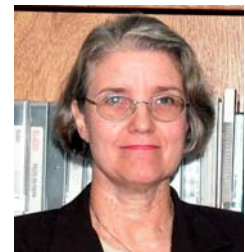
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November 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

Your Support is Appreciated!

As we move toward the end of the year, thank you for your support of the mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Your gifts toward the shared mission of this presbytery enable us to do more together than any of us could do alone.

Many youth who participated at the presbytery-sponsored YouthQuakes or who traveled by bus to Jubilee at Mo-Ranch or Montreat's senior high gathering will remember through the years that these events helped shape vocational and relational choices. But more significant, it was during these experiences, they will report, that they experienced faith in such a winsome way they came to believe that God is real and that life in relationship to Christ and the community of faith has become their most cherished gift.

Ruling Elders will recall the new insight for leadership gained at the Small Church Retreat and the help they received from Committee on Ministry volunteers during a stressful congregational challenge.

Other youth and adults will think back on 2011 as the year they took part in the trip to the Presbytery of Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico and witnessed first-hand the commitment of brothers and sisters to sharing the Good News. They will recall witnessing "how they loved each other," worked to better their communities and shared what they had with generous hearts. These will know that they didn't come home unchanged.





Some will recall the time at a particular meeting of the Presbytery, when a word spoken or sung stirred their hearts to renewed commitment to serve God in their small membership church.

Yet others will think about the ways that the compassionate people of the Presbytery of Arkansas responded when the winds blew destruction through Vilonia, Cincinnati and Hot Springs Village and the floods engulfed houses and fields around Holly Grove and Newport.



Being church together is our visible affirmation of our need for each other. It is God's regular reminder that we are not really at our best when going it alone.

Thank you for all you are and all you are doing. Thank you for your gifts of money, time and hearts made stronger as they continue to reach out as with one pulse.

Gratefully yours in faith,

[Bill](#)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule
 12 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, First, Conway
 13 Preach with Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village
 13-15 Committee on Ministry Retreat, Ferncliff
 16 Strategic Planning Committee, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas
 Installation of Dick Powell, Mo-Ranch President
 17-19 Board of Trustees, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Several years ago our church building suffered devastating damage in a brutal hail storm that left all of the west-facing surfaces and the roofs of all of the buildings damaged. Random window panes of the sanctuary were punched out, as if rocks had been thrown through them.

The repair work has now been completed. The good news is that the Building & Grounds Committee adhered to a Book of Order mandate: keeping adequate insurance coverage. After a very manageable deductible, our insurance paid for virtually everything, including clean-up.



We are aware, however, of other congregations who have stories of living through storms, and costly repairs, and inadequate insurance coverage.

It is the responsibility of each member of the congregation, and particularly each session member, to make certain that session records are current. The checklist may be found on the Presbytery's website [here](#).

These are a few of the requirements that are included on the list to make records complete:

- + Each year there shall be a statement of property and liability insurance coverage in effect
- + Record of the examination of the church financial records
- + An understandable term rotation system for officers, or evidence exemption by the Presbytery
- + Record of Election of Commissioners to Presbytery and their report back to the Session
- + Authority for, and record of, all celebrations of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If administered to shut-ins the record should so state.

This last one has particular emphasis:

- +A record of the Annual Statistical Report being reviewed by the session prior to submitting to Presbytery, and a summary of the report included as a permanent part of the Session records.

The Annual Statistical Report forms will be emailed to each congregation. The passwords have changed. Please be looking for this communication from the Presbytery office.

Your presbytery staff is available to assist you if you have questions about any of these areas. The church records are also legal records which are admissible, and have been used, in secular courts. However, that is not the reason to keep them in good form. We have a covenant commitment to attend to these tasks as a reflection of how we organize our work as a community of faith.

These items may seem to have little importance, until the day when we need to access this information, or one of these items of business needs attention, but was allowed to lapse. In our particular situation in our

local church -- had our alert Building & Grounds Committee not kept us on track with our insurance company, our story might be a different one today.

Blessings & peace

[Cathy](#)

Henager Installed as First Presbyterian, Heber Springs Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Al Henager as pastor on Sunday, October 23. They are (front) Rev. Ruskin Falls, Rev. Henager and spouse Katy Bates, Ruling Elders Pam Matthews and Charlotte Hipp, and (back) Revs. Jeff Price and Rebecca Spooner, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, and Rev. Dennis Bennett.

Jones Installed as First Presbyterian, Jonesboro Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Chris Jones as pastor on Sunday, October 30. They are Ruling Elders Don Eilbot, Robbie Benton, and Geoff Ryken, Rev. Debra Carl Freeman, Rev. Jones, Rev. Anne H. K. Apple, Ruling Elder Vernon Drake, and Revs. Reggie Weaver, Leslie Roper and Debbie Spangler.

Lyon College, Batesville to Host 119th Stated Meeting of Presbytery Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

Pre-Presbytery Workshops to be announced will be offered. Other presentations will be made by Dr. David Jones from Austin Seminary on conflict mediation and Andrew Black, new director from Constitutional Services of the PC(USA).

Worship with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and installation of Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Dyer and the presence of Youth at Presbytery delegates will be other highlights.

Orientation of Church Professionals New to the Presbytery



Annual orientation was held on Friday, October 14 at First Presbyterian, Conway prior to the Presbytery meeting. Pictured are General Presbyter Rev. Bill Galbraith; Rev. Andy King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Larry Mitchell, Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City; Rev. Melissa McNair King, First, Bentonville; Rev. Nancy Taylor, First, Mountain Home; Rev. Jan Butin, First United, Fayetteville; Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith; Rev. Rita Wilson, First, Yellville; Rev. Lance Jones, Member-at-Large; Angela Grear, First, Rogers; Rev. Chris Jones, First, Jonesboro; Commissioned Ruling Elder Jim Hays, Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins; Joel Gill, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock. Not pictured is Rev. Joy Carrington, Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton. In addition to presentations by Rev. Galbraith and Moderator Highsmith, presentations were made by Rev. Gordon Garlington, Mission Committee; Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center; Rev. David Gill, Ferncliff; Rev. Susan Gray, Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals; Rev. David Dyer on the history of the Presbytery; Rev. Bill Bailey, Committee on Ministry; and members of the Presbytery staff.

McGehee Centennial Celebration



First Presbyterian, McGehee celebrated their Centennial on October 2 with more than 140 people in attendance. Rev. Kenny Shaw serves as pastor.

People and Church News

News of Our People

- Congratulations to **Rev. Leslie Roper and husband Jeff** on the birth of their second child, a son, Daniel Hollis Roper on Oct. 14. Leslie is associate pastor of First, Batesville, and Jeff is a member of Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- **Jamie Randall** has begun duties as the part-time youth director at First, Hot Springs.

News of Our Congregations

- **First, Benton** composed a new mission statement and will have an organ/violin recital on Nov. 11.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** held their annual Pet Blessing Service on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23.
- **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** asks members to bring a friend to their Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 13.
- **First, Malvern's** children used their wagons to collect donations for a local food pantry during worship on Oct. 16, World Food Day and Children's Sabbath.
- **First, Clarksville** hosted University of the Ozarks students who moved furniture, trimmed, raked and pruned landscaping.
- **First, Batesville and Lyon College** joined together for a community service of the Kirkin' (blessing) 'o the Tartans Oct. 23 at Brown Chapel.
- **First, Harrison** will hold a Churchwide Bazaar on Nov. 12 with proceeds going to the Building Fund.
- **First, Jacksonville** will collect money for the Backpack for Kids program of Arkansas Rice Depot.
- **First, Walnut Ridge** men will gather for the third Wednesday this month and the congregation will decorate the church for Advent on Nov. 20.
- **Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins** recalled their members who have passed away at an All Saints' Day service this month.
- **First, Prairie Grove Presbyterian Women** are conducting egg sales to support mission projects.
- **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** welcomed new members at their church picnic on Oct. 30.
- **First, Morrilton** recently renovated the choir room and continues to renovate the kitchen.
- **First, Fort Smith** distributed through email and in print a 14-day devotional booklet leading up to Stewardship Commitment Celebration on Nov. 6.
- **Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** will be organizing and hosting its second annual Community Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving day. Last year 427 meals were served with turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings (plus meals for the 50 volunteers). In light of the current economy, it is anticipated that 600+ persons will be served this Thanksgiving day with a wider diversity of diners, both racially and socio-economically. At present, donations from other community churches and various organizations and individuals include: 50 turkeys, 30 trays of dressing, 30 gallons of green beans, 30 gallons of corn, 600 individual rolls, gallons of mash potatoes and gravy, and 75 pies. In addition, volunteers from the St. Francis Counsel on Domestic Violence will be on hand to counsel those who have experienced domestic abuse. Volunteers from a local cooperative clinic will also be present to take blood pressures and

to offer glucose, sickle cell, and cholesterol screenings.

- The Presbyterian Players of the **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** presented "Uncle Phil's Diner" for their Fall dinner theater on October 28-30. Approximately 350 people were in attendance for the three performances.

Ideas of the Month

- Northwest Arkansas youth groups traveled to the **United Campus Ministry** center in Fayetteville for Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday night, Nov. 6.

- **First, Huntsville's Presbyterian Women** are holding a "Soup's On" fundraiser in November to make and deliver homemade soup and bread to offices and shops in the downtown area.

Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

by [Rev. Jesse Gonzalez](#), evangelist

Presbytery's Hispanic New Church Development, Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana (CPH), located in northwest Arkansas is the only Hispanic outreach in the Presbytery. CPH has been hosted by First, Springdale since its first worship service held on Sunday, October 15, 2006. On Sunday, October 9, 2011 CPH held its fifth anniversary thanksgiving service, along with a grilled chicken fundraiser sale.

CPH ministry has prevailed over many challenges that the Hispanic community has been facing, particularly over the last three years of the current economic crisis. Nevertheless, CPH represents a strong support for the families and individuals attending as well as a strong witness of our denomination and Presbytery commitment to reach out for immigrants of other cultures and traditions.



At this moment all churches in the Presbytery have received, to the attention of pastors and clerks of session, a letter asking for financial support in 2012. Both the NCD administrative commission and CPH congregation pray for your generosity in the midst of this economic crisis affecting us all. Please help us to keep alive the outreach to our Hispanic sisters and brothers in northwest Arkansas and eventually to other areas in our Presbytery.

¡Dios proveerá / God will provide!

Prayer List for Congregations - 2011 can be found [here](#).

Stewardship

by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

Those of you who were not in attendance at the October 14-15 meeting of Presbytery at First, Conway missed the introduction of Presbytery's stewardship video [Bridge Building](#).

The film highlights the diversity of our Presbytery and denomination, and the commitment of many people. As the words in a joint letter from the Committee on Administration and the General Presbytery said "Remember that tithing is about much more than meeting a budget. It is an avenue for deepening faith and tangibly expressing gratitude to God."



Save the Date

"A New Journey Begins"

Northwest Arkansas Cluster Confirmation Retreat

February 3-4 (Friday 7:00 p.m. - Saturday 2:00 p.m.)

United Campus Ministry Center, 902 W. Maple St., Fayetteville

Cost: \$20/youth Registration forms will be sent in early January, deadline is January 20th.

For more information: Kristi Button kbutton@fupcfay.org or Mary Shaw mshaw59@cox.net

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (formerly Cursillo)

April 26-29

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

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

Opportunities

Church Business Administrator

Second Presbyterian, Little Rock seeks applicants to serve as its Business Administrator. This position oversees church finances and manages support staff, and requires a degree in accounting and/or comprehensive financial experience. Prior management experience and excellent interpersonal skills are also required.

Beginning salary is between \$50-\$60K. Benefits include a fully-funded family health care plan and a fully-funded defined benefit pension plan.

More detailed requirements and information can be viewed on the church website [here](#).
Applications can only be submitted electronically as detailed on the website.

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.



TIME FOR TRAINING OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

If you're a busy pastor or just the moderator of the Session in another congregation, how do you find time - and resources - to train your new elders and deacons using the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order: 2011-2013? Let YOUR Resource Center help! We have three studies that can be emailed or mailed to you this month from www.thepresbyterianleader.com, online studies created by the PC(USA).

1) **"The Awesome Task of Elder"** by Ruling Elder Cindy Bolbach, current moderator of the PC(USA), examines Parity between Ministers and Elders, Privilege and Responsibility, and the Challenges for Ruling Elders.

2) **"The Approved Presbyterian New Form of Government"** looks at What is Polity?, Councils as an Expression of the Unity of the Church, The New Form of Government, The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, What's in It?, Questions to Consider as You Read the Foundations, and The Form of Government (6 chapters, each with the heading "what's new" and "questions to consider")

3) **"Selecting and Preparing Ruling Elders and Deacons"** is divided among sections on why we prepare and examine leaders for ordination in the church; how councils (session, presbytery, synod, General Assembly) are called to determine the leader's ability and commitment; and practical applications for what sessions should do in preparation and examination of ruling elders and deacons.

Other resources are available from YOUR Resource Center on the [Book of Confessions](#), Presbyterian history, doctrine and government via the special issue of [Presbyterians Today](#) magazine entitled "What Presbyterians Believe."

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

Recommended by the network of Resource Center Directors I respect are: From the "Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding" curriculum series of the denomination **"Discipleship: The Way of Jesus"** adult study with leader's guide and six session student book and **"Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches"** (Acc. #BK7430) by Thomas G. Bandy.

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS BOOKS

- **"From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light"** (Acc. #BK9541) by beloved author Ann Weems and subtitled 'Poetry for Worship, Study, and Devotion' is a favorite for Presbyterian Women.
- **"Come, See the Wonder"** (Acc. #BK9510) collects four complete Christmas programs for children at church.
- **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"** (Acc. #BK9504) weaves an illustrated story of the writing of "Adeste Fideles" with the story of Jesus' birth.
- **"Mary, Did You Know"** (Acc. #BK with music CD9502) is an illustrated book for teenagers based on the gospel song.
- **"The Legend of the Christmas Tree"** (Acc. #BK9515) is an older children's book beautifully telling the inspiring story of a treasured tradition.
- **"Christmas Gifts that won't break: An Advent Study"** (Acc. #BK9482) by master storyteller James W. Moore is an all-church, four session study with a book for adults, one for youth and one for children so that the whole congregation is looking at hope, love, joy and peace on the way to Christmas.

Click [here](#) to view the video of the Christmas Joy Offering next month in many congregations.

(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 [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)
Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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.

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