

November 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



Best Laid Plans

It had to be a disappointment to runners who came for the New York Marathon. At least a year preparing, scheduling time away from work, arranging travel and lodging - just getting there was a big bucks investment. Now, it was all for naught. So it seemed. First the marathon was on; then, after rethinking such a festive occasion in the wake of Hurricane Sandy's Northeastern onslaught, the run was off. The disappointment was expectedly sharp but, surprisingly, there was little whining. Did you hear its absence? Even experienced marathoners reflected, "This was the right thing to do." Then, realizing calling off the race was, indeed, the right thing, they ran a different race. Many became couriers of mercy to those flooded in or burned out. They made their way among the flood's hardest hit, those whose homes had burned, who were stranded or whose power was lost, carrying medicine, food and fresh water. What's more, they seemed to be having a good time doing it. Literally, they were going with the flow, a flow of need that swept into their lives when they were on their way to do something else. Such redirections may at first seem unwelcome interruptions. But, then, we find ourselves nudged toward another plan that takes us on an unexpected adventure. I suspect that when these marathoners recount their trip to Manhattan for the 2012 New York Marathon, they will have a story to tell. It won't be of completing 26.2 miles but of an encounter with people they didn't know but were given the surprising opportunity to help.



Occasions to help are gifts. They are given almost every day - a neighbor with two youngsters confides her husband wants a divorce, a woman's family has rejected her after the HIV diagnosis and she seeks a ride to a boarding house across town. Every day, they come. We can rush headlong with our plans, avoiding interruptions best we can. We can complain about how some intrusion has fouled everything up. Or, we can decide that "the road less traveled" is the right one. It is the one we need to take

because something in us continues to notice and be moved to do the something we know we can. That, in itself, is good not just for others but for us, too.
Grace always,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

November

14-17 Mo Ranch Board of Trustees

18 Centennial Celebration, First Presbyterian, Dardanelle

22-25 Thanksgiving Break

28 Walnut Ridge Session Visit

December

1 Mission Committee, Presbyterian Village, Little Rock

Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus Advent Musical

Sunday, December 9, 2012

4 p.m.

Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church

922 Wright Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas

Church Employment Opportunity in our Presbytery

Choir Director -- First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas, seeks a choir director for Wednesdays and Sundays. A job description and an application form are available by contacting the church at 870-741-2464 or jane@fpcharrison.org.

Longtime Hot Springs Village Minister Dies

Rev. C. Victor Brown, formerly of Hot Springs Village, age 97, died October 30, 2012 in Barrington, IL where he had recently moved. He was an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A Colorado native, Brown graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago and was ordained in 1938. He pastored churches in NY, IA, IL, IN and retired in 1981 to Hot Springs Village where he was active at Kirk in the Pines. In this presbytery he served as interim pastor at First, Hot Springs and as parish associate at the Kirk.

Brown was widowed in 1997 and is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and a dear companion Marilyn Wadington. His son Philip is synod executive at Synod of Lakes and Prairies, covering MN, WI, IA, NE, ND and SD. A memorial service was held in Barrington, IL on Nov. 2 and at the Kirk on Nov.

10. Memorials were designated for The Memorial Gardens at the Kirk or Heifer International.

University of the Ozarks Selects New President

The University of the Ozarks Board of Trustees has elected **Richard L. "Rich" Dunsworth, J.D.** as the University's 25th president, effective July 1, 2013.

Dunsworth, 43, has served as vice president for enrollment at Millikin University in Illinois, since 2004. He will succeed Dr. Rick Niece, who is retiring in June after a 16-year tenure as president of the private, Presbyterian-affiliated university.

Dunsworth, who has a juris doctorate from the University of Illinois, has been at Millikin since 1991, including stints in student life and academic development. In his role as vice president for enrollment, he oversees numerous departments, including admission, athletics, financial aid, institutional research, marketing, media relations, registrar and student development. Dunsworth and his wife, Holly, have three young children.

Marie O'Connell Ordained and Installed at First Presbyterian, Little Rock



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas ordained and installed Marie Mainard O'Connell on Sunday, October 21st. She will serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, AR.

Front row (left to right): Elder Owen Lyon, Elder Susie Wiggins, Elder LowAnna Morehead, Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Rev. Marie O'Connell, Rev. Marion Humphrey.

Back row (left to right): Rev. Howard "Flash" Gordon, Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Dyer, Rev. Wendell Griffin.

Former University of the Ozarks President Dies

Dr. Fritz H. Ehren, 83, of Clarksville died October 30. Dr. Ehren was associated with the Presbyterian-affiliated University of the Ozarks, Clarksville for more than 60 years, including his tenure as the University's 22nd president from 1982-1990.

A 1953 graduate of Ozarks, Ehren served as baseball and football coach, admission counselor, dean of students, academic dean and vice president for academic affairs before retirement in 1990. He was a ruling elder at First, Clarksville and with his wife of 62 years Juanita, was active in the congregation, Presbytery of AR, which meets at the college every other February, and Synod of the Sun.

Ehren is survived by his wife, two brothers and a sister. A memorial service was held on November 2 at First Presbyterian, Clarksville.

**FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE:
Cents-Ability Offering for 2012**

Your Mission Committee encourages your support for the annual special offerings of our Presbyterian Church (USA) that benefit mission-related causes!

One we think of at this time of year is the Cents-Ability program.

Cents-Ability (formerly 2 Cents A Meal) offerings combat hunger through international, national, and local -- Presbytery of Arkansas - projects. For some, that means literally putting 2 cents per meal in a Cents-Ability container, a wonderful teaching opportunity for all and especially for those with children. Others write one check for the equivalent, \$21.90, or more, and make that their contribution.

The causes to which our Cents-Ability offerings are designated for 2012 are:

International - The Cameroon Food Sovereignty Program (H000128) -. This program helps villages build and operate village-run grain banks which allow villagers to sell their grain to a community silo and then buy their grain at a reasonable cost throughout the year. If villagers don't have money, they can buy the grain on credit and pay back that grain at harvest. The villagers make the decisions, are responsible for the banks, and are the beneficiaries. The grain banks have been incredibly successful and mean children in the Sahel who were eating maybe once a day during lean months are able to eat twice a day.

National - Our national portion will go to the general Cents-Ability fund (H000107) from which at the end of the year the Cents-Ability Advisory Committee selects and awards grants to hunger-related projects across the United States.

Presbytery of Arkansas - Our local portion of the 2012 Cents-Ability offerings will go to help support the hunger Ministries of the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Forrest City, Arkansas. That congregation now serves their community through soup kitchen held each week that serves approximately 400 individuals. In addition, they during the school year procure and pack backpacks of easily-opened and served food for Forrest City school children from at-risk families.

Receipts for the Cents-Ability Offering should be sent through our Presbytery of Arkansas' office.

**Kade Curry Installed at
First Presbyterian, Searcy**



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Arkansas installed Kade Curry on October 28th. He will serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Searcy, AR. Front row (left to right): Elders Marcia Szabo, Karene Jones, John C. Isaacs and Joy Henning Back row (left to right): Rev. Al Henager, Rev. Dennis Bennett, Rev. Kade Curry, Presbytery Moderator Rev. David Dyer



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a mission program of PC(USA)

Q: Do you know -- to what location(s) would you evacuate your people in case of fire or an approaching tornado?

A: If you don't know, now is the time to decide. For cases of fire, select a meeting point outside the building, one that's easy enough to go to and yet far enough away that falling debris and embers would be unlikely to reach the site.

For a potential tornado, select an interior room with sturdy walls and no windows.

For either situation, plan how to evacuate safely your less mobile members and your

children. **By thinking these things through now, you may be able to keep an emergency from becoming a disaster.**

--This message is brought to you by the **Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee**. Additional information is available at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

People and Church News

News of Our People

--**Jessica Hubbard** has resigned as Director of Children's Ministry at First, Bentonville and **Leah Woodruff Harvey** has begun duties as interim Director of Children's Ministry there.

News of Our Congregations

--**First, Dardanelle** will celebrate the centennial of their current building on Nov. 17-18.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** displays art work and clothing designs in their Fellowship Hall.

--**First, Fort Smith** enjoyed their annual church picnic on Oct. 28 and copies their Sunday services on DVDs.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** held a dinner, games and a hay ride on Oct. 27.

--**First, Prairie Grove** held a fall party at a family farm pond on Oct. 21.

--**Mountainburg Presbyterian's** Christmas Bazaar was an event of Nov. 10.

--**First, Pine Bluff** saluted local firemen with an appreciation breakfast on Oct. 30.

--**First, Benton** will host the fifth annual Sounds of Christmas on Nov. 16 to receive donations for local missions.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** observed Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Day.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** will begin an artist-in-residence program in January, 2013.

--**First, Mountain Home** recently hosted a cell phone workshop for senior citizens in the community with volunteer coaches from the high school National Honor Society.

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** is one of the sponsors of this year's Hillcrest Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 20 to collect money and staple foods for AR Foodbank.

--**First, McGehee** will have Hanging of the Greens on Nov. 25 and an Advent event, fellowship meal and annual bake sale on Dec. 2.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** recognized a number of veterans in worship on Nov. 11.

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

Prayer List for Congregations -- 2013 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).

[Click here for the latest PW newsletter.](#)

[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:

"What lies in store for us in heaven? All the questions you have ever had, and some you never thought of asking, have been answered in a most comprehensive, interesting, easily readable and Scripture-filled way by Randy Alcorn in his book, **"Heaven"**. You'll love it-both the book and what it tells us about eternity." Helen Utecht, First, Conway. Book and study guide available for loan from the Resource Center.



Another Conway member Betsy Gillaspay-Williams writes:

"In the Good Samaritan story, who do you feel you are most like? Have you ever looked the other way, not wanting to get involved, afraid, or not knowing what to do? Michael Seaton in his **"Becoming a Good Samaritan"** guides us through tough, heart-wrenching situations and encourages us to step out of our comfort zone and put our faith to the test. First Presbyterian Church, Conway, highly recommends this group study which will change your life. Rev. Debbie Freeman has used this with our mid-week adult group." DVD presents six sessions with a printed guide (Acc. #DVD9380)

Rev. Bob Hadley, Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay chimes in on the special edition of "Presbyterians Today" magazine **What We Believe 2**: "We started out with 20 folks Thursday evening with light dinner and study, and all have remained faithful with good participation and interest. Those who study the lesson get the most out of it and raise interesting questions. We Believe 2 is a very good study and most informative." Resource Center carries multiple copies of this and the other special editions of the magazine

Resource Center board member Julie Adkisson writes:

"I was impressed with curriculum from Lisa Flinn and Barbara Younger recently when it was my turn to help with children's worship (in Conway). The lesson was laid out simply so that it could be picked up and followed without preparation. It begins with a printed verse of SCRIPTURE and a succinct statement of the MESSAGE. The leader can get the overview in seconds and move on to a familiar "music and movement" OPENING, such as "This little light of mine" or 'If you're happy and you know it." A SHARING section asks a simple question to elicit responses from the children. LISTENING suggests the leader show the children the Bible and where the scripture is found, and then relates a current-day story that the children can easily understand. EXPLORING provides a situation game that relates to the lesson. SNACKING and a craft in MORE EXPLORING reinforce the story. This format offers short segments of 'short attention span' activity that keeps the group moving and involved; any stopping point works, and the children get the basics of the lessons." **"Sharing God's Love in Children's Church," "Celebrating God's World in Children's Church"** (Acc. #BK8870) and **"A Year's Worth of Children's Church"** (Acc. #BK8871) are in YOUR Resource Center.

IDEAS FOR USE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Book for children **"Jesus and the 12 Dudes who Did"** (Acc. #BK9474); DVDs for children **"Why do we call it Christmas"** (Acc. #DVD9607) and **"The Star of Christmas"** (Acc. #DVD9608)

REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG! Just go to the www.presbyteryofarkansas.org website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple or advanced search for just the right item.

(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education 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 [BRITTON VARN](#)

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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>