

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

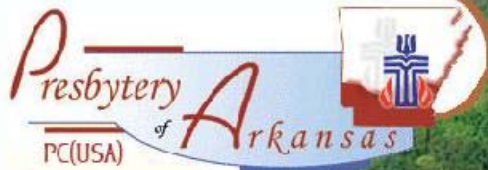
You're receiving this email because of your relationship with the Presbytery of Arkansas. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org to your address book today.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

July 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"Going First Class"

"Where you headed?" I asked my camo-clad seatmate as we awaited take-off on the Delta flight from Indianapolis to Atlanta. "When I get to Atlanta, I'll hop a jet to Kuwait. Then, it's on to Iraq," he said.

"First time?" "No," the sergeant replied, "Second tour." "Hope it's your last," I responded, without adding, "and you get home in good shape." "Should be," he responded, "another year and we'll be out of there."

Just then, a young man, fit and about the age of the sergeant, walked to the back of the plane from first class. Boarding pass in hand, he asked the soldier, "Want to sit in first class? I'll trade." It was a thoughtful gesture, a sign of appreciation not just for this sergeant but for all who are serving in the military. Surely, my seatmate would jump at the chance. It would be more comfortable to have room to spread out. He was going to be on planes for the better part of that Sunday and would be flying the next day as well. I waited for him to get up and move up to the head of the aisle where the seats are wider, the leg stretch longer.

But he said, "No, give it to one of the other guys." There were two more soldiers behind us toward the back of the 737. The three were traveling together. The kind man made the offer to each of them but no one swapped seats. No one moved to first class but I suspect all appreciated the offer.

What was going through their minds that each stayed in coach? Maybe it had a lot to do with being part of a team that looks out for each other; without pulling rank, not taking something for oneself that others don't get. Was saying, "No thanks." about everyone "being in this together?"

Jesus' words, creep into recollection, "Whoever wants to be first must be last." He wasn't talking about grandstanding humility but everyday decisions. I wonder if it wasn't more about seeing each other as part of the same unit, of having the sergeant's attitude, "Give it to one of the other guys," all the time and being OK with it.

Sunday afternoon, first class included aisle 21.

Grace always,
[Bill](#)

General Presbyter's July Out of Office Schedule



9-14 Junior High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch
17 Preach and Congregational Meeting, First, Harrison
20 Session Meeting, First, Lonoke
24 Preach and Session Meeting, Mountainburg Presbyterian
23 General Council, First, Conway
30 Ferncliff Board Meeting

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

BAD THEOLOGY: "Be afraid. Be very afraid."

This is the famous tag line in the creepy '80's film "The Fly" - about a machine expected to do something new, but the people creating it were not quite certain of its effects. The people using it did not understand it, and the people affected were changed forever.



GOOD THEOLOGY: "Fear not!"

Our Church has voted a new Form of Government. Our Book of Order will change significantly. There have been and will continue to be times when there appears to be uncertainty about the effects of this change in our constitution. However, this is where the metaphor breaks down.

It is new. Change is often uncomfortable. However, for our church at this time the change in our Book of Order is an opportunity to strengthen our mission and ministry. We do, however, need to be aware of some items that need attention in order to be about the work of God's church.

1. Order copies of the new Book of Order, so that the session is familiar with the changes. These may be ordered at this link store.pcusa.org and the item is OGA11001 Book of Order 2011-2013
2. Download [corporate by-laws](#) and [articles of incorporation](#) and check your session and congregation documents to make certain these are updated.

Decisions sessions need to make:

1. How to prepare disciples for membership in the church (G-1.0402)
2. How to examine those elected as Deacons and Ruling Elders (G-2.0104b)
3. What term the Clerk of Session will serve (G-3.0104)
4. Policy for Financial Practices (G-3.0106, G-3.0113, G-3.0205)
5. Obtain property & liability insurance (G-3.0112)
6. Determine quorum for a session meeting (G-3.0203)

Decisions congregations need to make:

1. Quorum for a congregational meeting (G-1.0502)
2. Period of minimum notice for a congregational meeting (G-1.0502)
3. If the congregation wishes to adopt Robert's Rules as its parliamentary authority.
4. Determine size and composition of the nominating committee. (G-2.0401)

These decisions might be overwhelming if taken at one time. However, it is not necessary to decide them all at once.

It is possible to vote to make the Book of Order 2009-2011 the temporary operating manual. A link may be found here:

<http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/previous-fog-for-transitional-manuals.pdf>

A wise session will put a time limit on this practice, until January 1, 2012, for example. And they will elect a task force, made up of the Clerk of Session and two or three persons interested in this project to help

form the church's *Manual of Operations*, or at least a current set of by-laws.

If you have questions about this process, or about the changes, please contact me.

This is a time to practice our best theology: Fear not!

We are in this together.

Blessings & peace

[Cathy](#)

118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, October 14-15, 2011 - First Presbyterian, Conway

Friday

1:30-5:30 p.m. Orientation of new church professionals

2:30 p.m. Registration opens

3:00-5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops

Dinner on your own

6:30 p.m. Gavel, business, followed by Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. Healing and Wholeness Service or candidate preaching

8:50 a.m. Business continues

11:30 a.m. Order of the Day to recognize graduates of the lay academy

Lunch served by host church after which business continues

Highlights: Welcome of new ministers, workshop within meeting on decisions to be made in light of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order, annual reports of Committee on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response (bring those flood buckets please!), Presbyterian Women, Clusters. Worship offering recipient is Cents-ability.

The meeting packet will be posted on the Presbytery website by Sept. 26.

Retired Pastor Kruizenga Dies

Rev. Harvard D. Kruizenga, 73, of Holland, Michigan, a minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died on June 19 in Holland. An Iowa native, Kruizenga served churches in South Dakota and Missouri before coming to Arkansas in 1989 as pastor of First, Searcy and later serving Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay. He retired in 2003 and moved from Walnut Ridge back to Michigan in 2008.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years Ravina; son Chad of Michigan and daughter Candace of North Little Rock; five grandchildren and two sisters. A memorial service was held on June 23 at Graafschap Christian Reformed Church in Holland.

Retired Pastor Roberts Dies

Rev. Dr. Maurice E. Roberts, 84, a honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died July 5

at his home in Fayetteville. A native of Emporia, Kansas, he served as a U.S. Navy chaplain for 22 years and subsequently as associate pastor at Old Stone Church in Cleveland, Ohio, chief of chaplain services for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fayetteville for 26 years, and as a parish-based pastoral counselor. After retiring in 2007, he served several years as the temporary supply pastor at the Elkins Federated Presbyterian Church and as parish associate at First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville.

He is survived by his wife Ann, son Edward Stephen (spouse Susan) Roberts II of Marshall, Wisconsin, daughter Bronwyn (spouse Dano) Fillion of Washington, D.C., and daughter Gwyneth (spouse Mark) Baker of Castle Rock, Colorado, three grandchildren, two nieces and their families. A memorial service was held on July 8 at First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville.

People and Church News

News of Our People

- Best wishes to **Rev. Tracy Julian** who married Rev. Bruce Williams (USN, Retired) on May 31. She is pastor of Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville. They will be living in Columbia Lakes, Texas.
- **Rev. Chip Andrus** has resigned as pastor of First, Harrison to accept the call as pastor of South Salem Presbyterian Church in New York.
- **Rev. Debra Carl Freeman** will begin duties as part-time interim pastor at First, Jacksonville on August 1. She is currently minister-in-residence at Presbyterian Village, Little Rock.
- **Mary Shaw** of Rogers began duties as Director of Christian Education at First, Springdale on July 5.
- **Pauline Rhodes**, recently retired from the Presbytery office, was awarded lifetime membership in the Administrative Personnel Association of the PC(USA).

News of Our Congregations & Ministries

- **Mountainburg Presbyterian** held a Hygiene Kit Party on June 12 and **First, Harrison** assembled hygiene kits for churches in Joplin, Missouri to distribute to tornado survivors.
- **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** is again a host to Family Promise of Pulaski County, an organization serving homeless families.
- **Graham Memorial, Forrest City** hosted a youth mission group June 12-17.
- **First, Huntsville** held a fill-the-jar fundraiser which was matched by donations from an anonymous church member with all money going toward the property fund.
- **First, Van Buren**, along with many other congregations, encouraged members to wear red and take up the Pentecost Offering on June 12.
- **Central, Pine Bluff** conducts a Thursday noon luncheon and study of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
- **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy Presbyterian Women** had a booth at the local Sportsmen's Day in June and will help at "Backpack Extravaganza" on August 6.
- **First, Batesville** children collected change during the school year to buy five goats and a trio of rabbits for Heifer International.
- **First, Siloam Springs** publishes a list of prayer companions for every Sunday in their newsletter.
- **Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins** reproduced their 1927 cookbook for sale with proceeds to go toward a new bell tower.
- **First, Pine Bluff Presbyterian Women** is surveying members about their preference between the current format of nine month Bible study or a full year of Bible study.
- Rev. Beth Sentell has resigned as interim pastor at **First, Van Buren** to accept the call as designated pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Shreveport. She is a minister member of Presbytery of the Pines.
- Rev. Kris Crawford has begun duties as interim pastor at **First, Fort Smith**. She is a minister member of Presbytery of the Pines but previously pastored First, Benton and First, Morrilton.
- **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** formally named their chapel in honor of pastor emeritus Rev. Richard B. Hardie, honorably retired, in a service on June 26.
- **Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** had eight members attend the Big Tent gathering of the PC(USA) in Indianapolis June 30-July 2 to participate in concurrent conferences for leadership development, evangelism, peacemaking, world mission and youth advisors.
- **First, Hot Springs** designates one Sunday per month as "Birthday Sunday" to celebrate the birthdays of

members that month with cake and fellowship following worship.

News of Our Clusters

- **Cluster I** (northwest Arkansas) sponsored a musical concert on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, at First, Rogers by the Gloryland Pastor's Church from North Little Rock. They completed their session records review in the spring.
- **Cluster V** (south Arkansas) has set their annual session records review for 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 23 at First, Malvern.
- **Cluster II** (north central Arkansas) has elected Rev. Clare Martin Kelley, pastor of the Northwest Arkansas Larger Parish (Eureka Springs-Holiday Island) as the cluster representative, Class of 2012 effective immediately. She replaces Rev. Chip Andrus who has taken a call in New York. That cluster's session records review is set for 10:30 on Saturday, August 6, at Holiday Island Presbyterian Church.
- **Cluster IX** (Pulaski County and environs) has set their annual session records review for Monday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Presbytery Office in Little Rock.
- **Cluster VII** (central Arkansas) has elected Rev. Brian Brock, pastor of Central, Russellville as their representative on General Council and Elder Wally Thacker, elder at First, Dardanelle, as their representative on Committee on Clusters, Class of 2014. That cluster's records review is set for Saturday, August 20, at First, Dardanelle for the churches in the western part of the cluster. Rev. Bob Hadley, pastor at Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay, will convene the review for the congregations in the eastern part of the cluster (Conway, Beebe, Fairfield Bay and Heber Springs).

Ideas of the Month

- **Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian, Fairfield Bay** session discussed steps to take if a storm came through while the congregation was in worship.
- **Grace, Little Rock** purchased and distributed to members yard signs to get the name of Grace Church out more widely into the community.

The Connectional Church

by [Rev. Randi Henderson](#), Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville & Moderator of Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Care & Development

Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville praises God for the web of mutual support that the Holy Spirit has spun around us! We know first-hand that Presbyterians in Northwest Arkansas are trying to live into the radical nature of our "connectional church," because we've been recipients of their care. On Sunday, May 15 officers and members from four of our neighboring congregations came to help us ordain and install a special class of elders, called to the particular task of discernment and planning for our church's future. When it came time to lay on hands in prayer, everyone in the room could see with their own eyes that we really mean it when we say an act of the local church is an act of the whole church - that's how connected we are. Our "good neighbors" came from First United, Fayetteville, United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas, First, Springdale, and the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, and we thank God for them all!

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

Per Capita

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

Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, "Exactly what is per capita and what does per capita do?"





Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$6.50) that each church pays to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

The Presbytery is sent the current year's per capita assessment based on the prior year's statistical reports that each church completes. The Presbytery, as a governing body, is obligated to pay your church's per capita monthly whether you contribute or not.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in the regular budget for the work of the Presbytery. If you haven't yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so.

First, Fort Smith Reports Progress on the New Presbyterian Hymnal

by [Dr. Stanley Livengood](#), Director of Music, First, Fort Smith

The PC(USA) has been working for several years on the creation of a new hymnal. The project is headed by the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS), led by superbly talented musicians, hymn writers, pastors, and college professors. Choosing a final list of songs to be included is a long and difficult process that has to tackle such issues as balancing old and new songs, contemporary and traditional styles, evolving lyrics over the centuries, singability, what accompaniment forces would be best, would churches like/use an electronic version, and even the color and texture of the hard cover. The PCOCS will meet a few more times before they finalize the contents early in 2012, and the General Assembly will vote in July, 2012. The goal is to make the new hymnal available in the fall of 2013. I serve as the new hymnal advocate for the Presbytery of Arkansas, and can point you to more information if you have questions. The place to start would be the project's website at www.presbyterianhymnal.org. Please share this information with your congregations.

Save the Date

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

August 11-13, 2011

Fernclyff Camp and Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

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

Presbytery Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee

October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Nashville.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo

October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. Applications are available [here](#), by calling 870.688.9189, or by e-mail request arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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

Opportunities

Director of Youth Ministries Second Presbyterian - Little Rock

Second Presbyterian Church, an 1800 member congregation with a strong commitment to youth ministry, excellent lay involvement and support, and a recently built 7600 square foot youth building seeks a full-time director of youth ministries who brings experience, depth of faith, energy, creativity and a vision of youth ministry where youth experience spiritual growth, support, service to others and fellowship. For more information about Second Presbyterian and to view the job description, please go to www.secondpreslr.org. Send resume to: youthdirectorsearch@secondpreslr.org.

Part Time Youth Director First Presbyterian - Jonesboro

The qualified candidate shall be a minimum of 23 years of age. A college degree is preferred. Experience in working with youth is required; experience in a leadership role is preferred. Preferred candidates will be supportive of the reformed faith and will be an active member of their church, including involvement in their church's youth program. The Youth Director will plan weekly activities for youth in grades 6-12 and their guests; promote youth programs among the youth and their parents; plan and participate in youth camps and mission projects; coordinate with adult volunteers assisting in youth activities; plan dinners following youth events on Sunday evenings; and, adhere to all established church policies, including building and van use policies. The successful candidate will begin work in September. Regular activities will require 10 hours per week, additional time will be compensated separately. Submit a resume and three references, including one from your pastor, to Pastor Emmett Powers at presbypastor@sbcglobal.net.

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, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT IMPACTS OFFICER TRAINING

With the passage on June 7 of the new "Form of Government" section of the [Book of Order](#) and its becoming effective July 10, it is a new day for training elders and deacons to serve this fall and into the new year. The first adjustment suggested by the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), Gradye Parsons, who was our guest at the Presbytery Meeting on June 4, is to be sure that every officer and

staff member has a copy of the new Book of Order dated 2011-2013. It is due out this month. This is a good year for all officers, new and continuing, to "read together what is now a very short Form of Government section," according to Parsons. Stated Clerk Ulrich's article above gives ordering information.

Because the Belhar Confession fell short of the affirmative vote total needed to be included in the Book of Confessions, that part of the church constitution will not be changed and can be easily used for your local training. As new officer training material is released by the denomination, YOUR Resource Center will publish alerts. All other proposed amendments to the Book of Order were approved by vote of the presbyteries.

Rave Reviews from Resource Center Patrons

- Bill Barker of Mountainburg Presbyterian found the resource "**Church and Staff Evaluation Sample Notebook**" (Acc. #BK7630) very helpful with its position descriptions and evaluation forms to be used outright or as guidelines for church employees.
- Rev. Emmett Powers, interim pastor, First, Jonesboro writes about the DVD "**Leading Change: Church Leadership Amid Turmoil**" (Acc. #DVD9531) "DO NOT VIEW THIS DVD! People who like to pamper anxieties in your church will not like you if you use this on them...That will be especially important if your church is having a combination of financial, pastoral leadership, building construction, change process or insider tensions. If you view this DVD, you will wise up and start delegating those anxieties..."
- Jan Enke, First, Van Buren reports that their group thinks that "**Religions of the World**" video series is a "very good study which the class has really enjoyed. In between we had some (visitors) from the Jewish and Muslim faiths speak and answer questions."
- From my Resource Center colleague Kay Bledsoe in Coastal Carolina. She suggests using www.openingdoorstodiscipleship.com web-based course A--Teaching Skills for local church teacher training and using course B--Bible Basics; course C--Presbyterian Reformed Faith, and course D--Discipleship for a small confirmation class. Contact me for the login code for the PC(USA) please. Cindy Corley in Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy uses the Nooma DVD "**Dust**" (Acc. #DVD9023) for confirmation because it is about Jesus as your rabbi.
- Certified Christian Educator Linda LeBron suggests the following as summer Sunday solutions for children in our churches in late July and early August: 1) work on a project (teach how to knit baby caps or prayer shawls, plant flowers, make cookies for blood donors); 2) breakfast table lessons: youth do a Bible story or issue skit, then talk around tables; 3) hymn sings (especially on the fifth Sunday of July 31) can introduce new and old hymns, tell origins of one, use instruments, learn how to use hymnal indexes (These books would be helpful: **Doing Psalm/Hymn Activities Acc. #BK6909, Hymn Stories for Children: 10 Commandments Acc. #BK7409, Hymn Stories for Children: Lord's Prayer Acc. #BK7436**)

BOOK DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES (or suggestions for your vacation reading)

Rob Bell of "Nooma" fame has written "**Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith**" and what has become a controversial *New York Times* bestseller "**Love Wins: a book about heaven, hell and the fate of every person who ever lived.**" Another *New York Times* bestseller and amazing true story is "**Same Kind of Different as Me**" by Ron Hall & Denver Moore. Why not check these out to decide if they are right for your personal (or church) library collection?

(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 Council [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>

[Forward to a Friend](#)



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

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