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December 2009

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

The three granddaughters and grand mom, candle lighter in hand, approached the Advent wreath as the service began, "We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ...Let us walk in the light of the Lord."

And that was the sense of our gathering at Good Shepherd Presbyterian in Greenwood on the first Sunday of Advent, "walking in the light of the Lord," expectantly, hopefully!



Here's a congregation on the rise. A few years ago, the congregation had dwindled to a handful but they persisted believing there remained a need for a Reformed witness in their community. God was preparing the way and they were open to something new.

Renewal is always God's doing but God uses people. People, like a session which hangs in when times are difficult. People like Ed, a community leader, responding to God's nudging to return to the church where he had gone to Sunday School and studied the Bible. His first Sunday back, there were three in the congregation and the preacher but he kept coming. He invited others. He studied to become a strong lay leader. As we moved into Advent 2009, over 40 had gathered to worship God. Ed preached. Orin, the former pastor, officiated at the Lord's table. A young couple was welcomed into membership with the words, "We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us." Worship was accented by the sounds of children moving about, their sneakers thumping on pew backs, sounds unheard three years ago.

Following worship, we moved to the fellowship hall for the monthly Agape Meal. We took hands and gave thanks for all present and those who were away, for blessings so abundant and the new vitality of the congregation.

This morning's mail brought a "thanks for coming" greeting from Charles, one of the Good Shepherd flock, with whom I broke bread and ate pie. He continued, "The little ole church is once again alive and growing and we are so proud of it (I guess you could tell.)"

I could and couldn't help sharing the good news.

Gratefully,
Bill

"Prayer for Lighting Advent Candles"
from *Faces At The Manger* by J. Barrie Shepherd

Father, this is a lovely thing we do,

to light more candles week by week
until your Son is born among us.
As the light of these candles grows,
so let the love of Christmas,
the joy of giving,
the happiness of hoping,
spread through our homes, our families,
our churches, our own lives,
that we might come at last
to kneel before the manger
and know the child of Christmas born
within our hearts.
Amen.

With warm wishes for the Advent season:

Bill Galbraith Joan Erickson Cathy Ulrich
NiAnn Thompson Pauline Rhodes Brian Perry Jesse Gonzalez

Attention: Clerks of Session

Please forward The Banner to your Session members so that they can subscribe. Thank you.

A Polity Point

by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Two years ago our church building (Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith) 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 is only now being completed. The good news is that the Building & Grounds Committee had adhered to a Book of Order mandate and with a very manageable deductible our insurance paid for virtually *everything* including clean-up.



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 web site.

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 comprehensive liability insurance coverage in effect

- + Record of the examination of the church financial records
- + An understandable term rotation system for officers, or evidence of 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 have been mailed to each congregation.

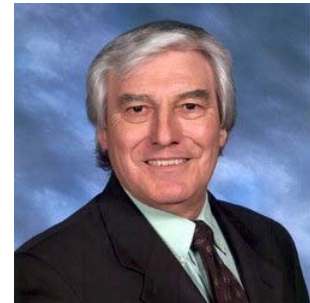
Your presbytery staff is available to assist you if you have questions about any of these areas. The church records are also legal records which are admissible and have been used in secular courts. However, that is not the reason to keep them in good form. We have a **covenant commitment** to attend 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 needed 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 and peace, [Cathy](#)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Prayer. It can happen that there is something different or unexpected about prayer that has us surprised when we discover there being more of it than we were thinking. Even though we have been praying for years and years and over those years we might begin to believe we understood prayer enough with there being nothing new to learn about it and yet - and yet we can still be surprised.



Let me share a couple of things. When I was in the hospital a few months back Sallie Watson, Interim General Presbyter, and Camille LeBron Powell, an associate pastor at Second, Little Rock, visited me at different times while I was bedfast - that was the very first time that had ever happened to me, my being in a hospital with someone praying for me there. Their praying for me put prayer in a whole different light and category of "ministry" for me. I found myself realizing, "So that's what happens when someone prays for you while in the hospital." I was in the position of the one being prayed for, and I was able to sense its special, very special, nature and service.

Then, this past week, I was walking through Harris hospital and I saw a woman sitting upon one of the beds in a hospital room, watching over her sick husband in the room's other bed. I thought I knew her so I wandered into the room, but I was mistaken and I did not know her. I visited with them for a bit, her actually, because her husband was in a very difficult condition. Come the time to leave I asked if she would like a prayer. "A prayer?" she questioned. "Yes," I nodded. She reached forward and grasped her husband's arm saying "Clyde, this man is going to pray for us, did you hear? He is going to pray for us." She jumped off the bed, took one of his hands in hers, she reached and with her other hand took mine, and she was fighting back the tears. Guess what? So was I. When the prayer concluded her eyes and mine were moist, and there was a lump in my throat. This lady was so very, very thankful that I stopped in and visited with her. I firmly believe that because of the prayer she sensed the Lord was there also. Of course, God was there already, but the prayer allowed her to know of the Lord's presence with them.

Love,

[Alan](#)

(From the "The Epistle," the newsletter of First, Newport as penned by pastor Rev. Alan Ford.)

PEOPLE AND CHURCH NEWS

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- **Rev. Sallie Watson** of Little Rock is recuperating at home from surgery performed on November 17.
- **Rev. Chuck Olsen** of Searcy remains hospitalized. Your prayers are requested.
- **Rev. Robert Cox** will complete his service as pastor of First, Batesville on December 31.
- **Roanna Wilson** has resigned as Ferncliff's Reservations Coordinator to spend more time with her family.
- **Bridgett Moore** is the new membership secretary at First United, Fayetteville.
- **Rev. Lewis Donelson** wrote one of the daily readings for the Advent devotional booklet produced by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where he is the Ruth A. Campbell professor of New Testament Studies. Donelson is a minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.
- Christian sympathy is extended to the family of **Elder Toney McMillan** of Arkadelphia who passed away on Sunday, November 22. He was a member of Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission and the support committee for the new General Presbyter, as well as a long-time member of the Committee on Ministry.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

- **First, Conway** invites the people of the Presbytery to their Taize' worship services at 6:00 p.m. every Sunday during Advent through December 20. These contemplative services begin and end in silence and are conducted in candlelight with the songs of Taize' (France), accompanied by guitar, violin, piano and woodwinds.
- **First, Malvern** offered to the congregation a display on Presbyterian history on Reformation Sunday (October 25) and on end-of-life preparation on All Saints' Day (November 1).
- **Wynne Presbyterian** presented a "Blue Christmas" service on the evening of December 6 for those "finding that Christmas hurts" from their issues of broken relationships, unemployment, ill health, isolation, and loss in the midst of a society celebrating via the media.
- **Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge Presbyterian Women** hosted a meal for the local high school football team, band members, coaches and cheerleaders prior to a home football game.
- **First, Batesville** features in every newsletter an interview with a church member who tells who is their greatest influence and a talent they wish they had.
- **First, Berryville** collects the Cents-ability Offering (formerly "2 cents a meal") on the first Sunday of each month.
- **First, Harrison** publishes in their newsletter a list of volunteer visitors from the church to the hospital and nursing home for each week of the month.
- **First, Bentonville** prepared and delivered Thanksgiving baskets to local, elderly, low-income residents.
- **First, Siloam Springs** plans a mission trip during spring break to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center to perform various service projects in central Arkansas.
- **Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** enjoyed a sermon series on Revelation following by a photo program, streaming video and mementos from sites in Turkey.
- **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** offers "Adopt-a-College-Kid" program to invite college students who are church members or members of other Presbyterian churches to worship, send them birthday or encouragement cards, or invite them to church potluck meals or a meal at "adopters" homes.
- **First, Hot Springs** announced that when a member's bank offers online bill paying, church members are now able to pay their pledges to the church automatically.
- **First, Fort Smith** nursery staff and Children/Family Ministries Department will sponsor a "Christmas Shopping Baby Sitting" program on the evening of December 18 and half-day on December 19.
- **First United, Fayetteville** celebrated "Legacy Sunday" on November 22 to examine ways that a person's commitment to the local church can continue past their earthly life through wills and endowment funds.
- **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosts the lectionary study group of pastors every Tuesday morning and schedules a Wednesday evening communion service every week.

- **First, Beebe** members brought decorations and decorated the Walton Home at Vera Lloyd Children's Home in Monticello on November 18 and invited residents of the Walton Home to be part of the church's float in the Beebe Christmas parade on December 5.
- **Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood** has added new Chrismons to their tree this year and will close the year with communion and a potluck lunch on December 27.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** dedicated their new chapel on December 6.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** is presenting *Kids on Parade*, a new program designed to encourage families with school-age children to attend church. The program will run for three Wednesday nights in December and will include dinner and a special theme for each night - "Cookies on Parade," "Toys on Parade," and "Puppets on Parade." Admission to attend is to bring a child and his or her family.

THE CHURCH CONNECTIONAL

- The men of **West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia** prepared a fish luncheon on November 1 and invited the congregation of **First, Arkadelphia** to join them at the Community Family Enrichment Center.

NEWS OF OUR CLUSTERS

- **Cluster VI** (west Arkansas) congregations and leaders gathered in the Family Life Center at First, Fort Smith on November 22 for a fellowship meal and a Thanksgiving worship service.
- **Cluster V** (south Arkansas) church professionals will hold their annual Christmas party on December 10 in Pine Bluff hosted by Central, Pine Bluff's pastor Rev. Dan Festa.

NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS

- **Rev. Laura Fleetwood** of Bella Vista has begun service as part-time parish associate at the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista.
- Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. John and Gwen Shell** of Conway on the death of Gwen's brother Trevor Rees-Jones in Dallas on October 20. John is pastor emeritus of First, Conway.
- Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Art and Lillie Bell** of Bella Vista on the death of Lillie's brother Ray Wilson in Delphi, Indiana on November 21. Art is interim pastor at First, Fort Smith.

Idea of the Month

Cluster I (northwest Arkansas) conducted two joint sessions of officer training on Tuesdays in November at First, Rogers complete with fellowship, devotional and study of discerning God's will, connectional mission, Reformed Theology, Form of Government and Responsibility of Elders led by cluster pastors. The third session was to occur in the local congregation and focus on their particular structure and work.

Longtime Presbyterian Pastor Dies

Rev. Basil Virgil Hicks, Sr., 92, an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, died on November 24 in Little Rock. A native of Missouri, Hicks graduated from School of the Ozarks, Arkansas College (now Lyon College), and Columbia Seminary.

After ordination in 1943, he served churches in Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, and Scotland. In this presbytery he was pastor of First, Arkadelphia and Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock and interim pastor at First Churches in Harrison, Jonesboro, Jacksonville, Mountain Home, Rogers and Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock and Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff. He held various positions of leadership and responsibility in synods and presbyteries but was most proud of the honorary doctorate he received from Lyon College.

Hicks is survived by his wife of 66 years Dale of Presbyterian Village in Little Rock, three sons and one daughter, six grandchildren and two brothers. A memorial service was held at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock on November 28. Gifts may be given to the Clyde and Delpha Beasley Hicks Endowed Scholarship

at Lyon College, Trinity Presbyterian in Little Rock or Presbyterian Village Foundation.

113th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, February 19-20, 2010 - Lyon College, Batesville

Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Youth Advisory Delegates are invited to this meeting. The theme is taken from the newly approved Vision Statement of the Presbytery "Making visible the body of Christ."

Tentative concurrent pre-presbytery workshops (choose one), Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.:

1. "Clerk of Session Training" presented by the Office of the Stated Clerk and the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture, Rev. Clare Kelley leader. (Designed to be informative for new and continuing Clerks of Session as well as Session moderators.)
2. "PERCEPT Demographics: Learning about Your Church and Community" presented by the Committee on Congregational Care and Development, Rev. David Schaller leader.
3. "Planning Mission Trips" presented by the Committee on Mission, leader to be determined.
4. "Help with Your Statistical Report" presented by the Presbytery office staff, Pauline Rhodes, presbytery and financial administrator. (She will be available at a computer terminal to help any clerk, pastor or leader complete the report online before the closing date.)

Dinner Friday on your own, Gavel at 6:30, business and opening worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the installation of new Presbytery Moderator Rev. Dr. Debra Carl Freeman, and reception after worship at the home of Lyon College president Dr. Donald Weatherman. Friday night offering will go to the Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship fund at Lyon College.

Saturday schedule resumes at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Prayers, followed by business, with an 11:00 worship service which includes installation of new General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith. Expected highlights are: reports from the Black Caucus, Ferncliff Board, Committee on Congregational Care and Development, Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, the State of the Presbytery report, voting on the 2010 budget and welcoming new ministers. Lunch will be served in the college dining hall.

The meeting packet is expected to be posted on the presbytery web site by February 1.

Outgoing Committee Moderators Thanked

by Presbytery Moderator [Claire Rhodes](#)

On behalf of the Presbytery of Arkansas, I would like to express our appreciation to the following outgoing Committee moderators:

Lynn Condra - Committee on Ministry
Beth Highsmith - Committee on Nominations
Marci Ward - Committee on Mission
Debbie Spangler - Committee on Clusters
Karen Akin - Ferncliff Board
Kendal Land - Committee on Christian Education and Nurture
Walls McCrary - Treasurer

We know that you have spent many hours in time-consuming, often difficult tasks on behalf of our Presbytery and have done these well. Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work to further God's kingdom. Thanks also to the members of Presbytery committees, Council, and boards who

complete dedicated service at year's end. May the God of grace, mercy and peace richly bless you as you continue to serve and honor Him.



Elder Lynn Condra
Moderator, Committee on Ministry
2007-2009
Member of First, Fort Smith
Director of Christian Education, Central, Fort Smith



Elder Beth Highsmith
Moderator, Committee on Nominations
2008-2009
Member of Second, Little Rock



Rev. Marci Ward
Moderator, Committee on Mission
2007-2009
Pastor, First, Clarksville



Rev. Debbie Spangler
Moderator, Committee on Clusters
2009
Pastor, First, Walnut Ridge



Rev. Karen Akin
President, Ferncliff Board of Trustees
2009
Associate Pastor, Second, Little Rock



Rev. Kendal Land
Moderator, Committee on Christian Education and Nurture
2009
Pastor, First, Arkadelphia



Elder Walls McCrary
Treasurer of the Presbytery
2008-2009
Member, First, Lonoke

Youth Ministry in 2010

2010 will be another great year of presbytery youth ministry!

The events for the year are:

Middle School Mission (M&M)- January 16-18
 Youth at Presbytery (Y@P)- February 19-20
 Senior High Youth Quake (SHYQ)- April 9-11
 Junior High Youth Quake (JHYQ)- September 24-26

Information about these events and summer trips is available in the [InfoBook](#)

The summer trips for the year are:

Triennium - July 19-24 **REGISTRATION DUE January 11**
 Montreat Youth Conference - July 24-31 **REGISTRATION DUE January 11**
 Junior High Jubilee/Mo-Ranch - July 10-15 **REGISTRATION DUE February 1**
 Mission Trip - TBD **REGISTRATION DUE March 1**

News from Ferncliff

Ferncliff is pleased to announce it is the recipient of two grants toward the purchase of their 14 passenger solar/electric vehicle. They were awarded a Synod of the Sun Mission Networking Grant of \$5,000 and also received a \$4,700 grant from the Trull Foundation of Texas. The vehicle has two solar panels that help recharge the batteries. The Shuttle Buddy is used to take groups on tours of the camp, transport volunteers to and from the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC), and will be used to shuttle campers to the DAC for their service project of making disaster kits. The vehicle will also be used in conjunction with the Solar Under the Sun mission project that will start at Ferncliff in 2010. Ferncliff is making a concerted effort to "go green."

Ferncliff Hosts Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association

by [Rev. David Gill](#), Executive Director, Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Ferncliff hosted the annual gathering of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA) November 8-13. The annual meeting is open to all of the 157 PC(USA) and Canadian Presbyterian camps. The theme was "Changing the World through Camp and Conference Ministry" and the gathering at Ferncliff was perhaps the largest ever with 160 participants representing about 70 camps. To accommodate the size of the group, Ferncliff used 27 rooms at the 4-H Center next door.



The keynote speaker was Rev. J. Herbert Nelson. Herbert is a third generation Presbyterian pastor and founder/pastor of Liberation Community Presbyterian Church in Memphis, the first African American Church developed in the then Presbytery of Memphis in 46 years and winner of the Walton Grant for outstanding new church development. The worship leader and chaplain for the week was our Presbytery's own Rev.



Anne Russ. Participants had 35 workshop options including "Putting Your

Mission Where Your Mouth Is" by Ferncliff's Program Director and Registered Dietitian Abby Cain. Also speaking to the group was Rev. Byron Wade, Vice-Moderator of the PC(USA).

PCCCA had met at Ferncliff in 1994, right after the Brown Conference Center was built. Ferncliff's Director at that time was the Rev. Fred Babb. One of the field trips offered that year was to the Heifer Project Ranch. Interestingly enough, David Gill hosted that field trip. Participants were impressed by all the changes to Ferncliff since their last visit 15 years ago. The event moves from camp to camp and next year's gathering will be at Highland Camp in Colorado.

Ferncliff Opportunity

Hospitality Coordinator - Ferncliff is looking for a full-time employee to coordinate group reservations, receptionist duties and do marketing of the conference center. Looking for someone who is positive, organized, and motivated to work in a Christian organization. Great working environment. Salary around \$20,000 with full medical. Send cover letter and resume to ferncliff@ferncliff.org

College Quake

FAITH ANATOMY is the theme for College Quake, January 4-6, at Ferncliff. Life Changes, Major Changes, Love Changes, Everything Changes. How will you handle it? College Quake is a relaxed three-day retreat strictly for college-aged students. We will have a keynote speaker and a Magical Mystery Outing!

Here is a [link](#) to the Ferncliff web site to register online or to print a brochure.

Validated Ministry - Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol

by [Brian Perry](#), Communications Director

On why she chose to pursue ministry in higher education, Nancy Benson-Nicol states, "I got into college chaplaincy by paying attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit leading me, as Buechner so eloquently put it, where 'the world's deepest need met my deep joy.' Academic institutions are like 'home' to me; colleges and universities are perhaps our most neglected "mission fields," and ministering with young adults is my great pleasure, so all of this conspired to make for a great fit."



Nancy has served as University Chaplain of the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville since August 2006. Prior to her current ministry, she served from 2003-2006 as Associate Pastor of First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville. Nancy began ordained ministry as a Lilly Resident in Parish Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 2001.

A native of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Nancy earned the Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Sociology & Anthropology and Religion from Swarthmore College in 1998, and the Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2001.



Her service to the denomination includes a three-year term (1996-1999) on the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), during



which she served as vice moderator, at the "tender" age of 24, in 1999. In its July 2004 cover story, the publication "Presbyterians Today" featured Nancy in "40 Under 40: Ones to Watch" as "rising star" in the denomination. In July 2009, Nancy served as a featured plenary speaker in Louisville at the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. Her editorial and liturgical submissions have been published in "Horizons" magazine on four occasions; most recently, she has been commissioned by "Horizons" as the author of the 2012-2013 Bible study exploring the nature of community as depicted in the minor epistles.

Permanent Lodging

by [Rev. Gradye Parsons](#)

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories, was established in 1860. It serves faithfully the town of Bethlehem with a variety of important ministries. In recent years, the congregation has been able to expand its mission with a larger building dedicated to education and community activities.

An ancient cave was discovered while the site for the new building was being excavated. The congregation decided to leave the cave intact to show what a cave stable might have looked like when Joseph and Mary arrived over 2000 years ago.

The first sense I had when I saw the site is that this stable is nothing like the great barns to which we are accustomed in our American context. It is a small, intimate space where humans and beasts would be close companions. Being a cave, it is cool and very quiet, almost like an empty sanctuary. It is not hard to imagine a couple settling into this place after a long journey or its use as the birthing place for a child.

In his comments on Luke 2:7, John Calvin said, "We see, at the same time, what sort of beginning the life of the Son of God had, and in what cradle he was placed. Such was his condition at his birth, because he had taken upon him our flesh for this purpose, that he might, 'empty himself' (Phil. 2:7) on our account. When he was thrown into a stable, and placed in a manger, and a lodging refused him among men (sic), it was that heaven might be opened to us, not as a temporary lodging, but as our eternal country and inheritance, and that angels might receive us into their abode."

That Christmas spirit that seems only to come in December is not meant to be temporary lodging in our souls. It is meant as a place to live our lives and enjoy the rich gift we have received from God. Calvin is right - in a small, quiet cave stable the heavens opened up to us.

Remember Bethlehem. May Christ find permanent lodging in your heart.

Christmas Cards Sent to Retired Ministers



The Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals is shown addressing Christmas cards to Honorably Retired members of the Presbytery. Pictured are Rev. Susan Gray (moderator), Rev. Don Wardlaw, Rev. Mark Lenneville, Commissioned



Lay Pastor Liz Hardin, and Karene Jones. Not pictured are members Dick Freer, Jerry Ratzlaff, Rev. Bill McWeeny, and Linda Norvell.

Stewardship at Year's End

by [Walls McCrary](#)

At this time of year, it is always good to look where we have been and where we hope to go. As Treasurer of our Presbytery, I can tell you that money has been tight and contributions have been slow and irregular. However, with your help, we should be close to reaching our budget goal for 2009.

We are waiting until after the end of the year to finalize the 2010 Budget. A lot of what is decided upon depends on December contributions and your pledges for the upcoming year. As church Sessions plan their budgets, the Committee on Administration would like to remind you of the importance of all of our churches supporting our Presbytery financially in 2010.

Please give generously and on a regular basis. We hope that more of you will consider tithing this coming year as we hope to continue our Presbytery's tithing to the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond.

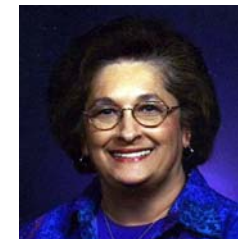
Thanks to all of you for your support of our Presbytery and may you have a joyful and prosperous New Year.



Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

by [Pauline Rhodes](#)

November Revenue	\$46,825.30	Year-to-Date Actual as of November 30	
November Expenses	<u>\$74,420.60</u>	Revenue	\$706,036.68
November Deficit	-\$27,595.30	Expenses	<u>\$862,512.25</u>
		Deficit	-\$156,475.57



Check Request Vouchers

Committee Moderators and Members of Committees: Please turn in all of your signed Check Request Vouchers approved by the Committee Moderator by Tuesday, December 15th for any expenses for 2009. The books will be closing on Wednesday, December 23rd due to the Christmas holidays. Moderators, please make sure your committee members are not holding over any expenses that have occurred in 2009.

Thank you,
Pauline

Going Green in Faith & Life

by [Betsy Gillaspay-Williams](#)

Make this a 'green' Christmas!

Wrap gifts in brown paper (cut-up paper sacks) or newsprint (colorful comic pages are fun) and tie with bright ribbons.

If you have lots of fabric stashes, sew simple drawstring bags in bright prints to fit the gift size. The bag is reusable.

A home-made loaf of bread, jam, candy, cookies, etc. are gifts from your heart.

Instead of adding to "stuff" which most of us have in abundance, give a gift "in honor of" to [Heifer International](#). Their gifts of animals are gifts that keep on giving and range from \$10 to \$5,000, and help the poor find dignity and a way to support their families.

The [Nature Conservancy](#) allows you to adopt an acre of land, help save endangered animals, protect hummingbird habitat "in honor of" or give a gift membership to *Nature Conservancy* magazine.

A Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Christ's Small Church: Deep and Wide

Small Church Retreat and Workshops

Thursday-Saturday

March 4-6, 2010

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Philip Lotspeich

Coordinator for Church Growth, PC(USA)

More information is available [here](#).

Winter Weather Policy

The Presbytery Office is closed for winter weather when the Pulaski County School System closes.

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road

Little Rock, AR 72227-6201

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

[NiAnn Thompson](#), Director

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



At the end of another calendar, we pause to thank all of you for your faithful ministry in your local congregation, your great ideas and suggestions to YOUR Resource Center, and your wise use of precious dollars in patronizing the free resources of the center for your creative programs and classes. May your Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons be bright with the glow of God's love,

Christ's compassion and the Spirit's energy. Blessings! - NiAnn Thompson and the Resource Center Advisory Council

IDEAS FOR DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3

- On the last Sunday of the year and the first Sunday of the New Year you may (or may not) have children, youth and adults visiting in your educational settings. Regardless, it's time to get ready. Here are some new suggestions:

"Veggie Tales: Saint Nicholas, A Story of Joyful Giving" (45 minute DVD) which tells a new story for children of a timely concern: When Laura Carrot's stocking might be empty because her dad is in danger of a lay-off, Bob tells the story of little Nicholas who changed Christmas forever. Those Bible-quoting vegetables are at it again.

"The Star of Bethlehem" (65 minute DVD) is a documentary through biblical and historical clues revealing the significance of this celestial event and God's creativity.

"The Chimes" is a story of New Year's Eve told by Charles Dickens in clay animation (22 minute video).

"Mystery of the Three Kings" video sheds light on the early traditions of the Wise Men: their origin, travels, position and gifts (50 minutes).

"The Fourth King" is an animated tale of charm and humor "for anybody who's ever been late" and recounts the story of King Mazzel, who delayed his visit to the Baby Jesus to give aid to needy people along life's way (30 minute DVD).

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. Take advantage of the online catalog for the Resource Center at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>. Then click on "Resources," "Resource Center," "Search the Catalog" and conduct a "simple search" or an "advanced search." Newly cataloged resources are also highlighted.
2. Preview possibilities for book discussions and special groups late in 2009 or early in 2010. Consider **"Unbinding Your Soul"** by Martha Grace Reese (Acc. #BK9289), **"Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation"** by Carol Howard Merritt (Acc. #BK9290), **"Earth-Wise: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues"** (Acc. #BK9298), or **"Traveling Light: The Promise of Psalm 23"** by Max Lucado (Acc. #BK9279). Note please that the Resource Center and the Presbytery office are closed from December 24 through January 1 so please order loans earlier or later than those dates.
3. Share your success stories with YOUR Resource Center by letting us know what worked for you in your local congregation so that we can share the good news and perhaps purchase the resource that blessed your group.

Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas - 2010

Jan. 3	First, Benton & Commissioned Lay Pastors
Jan. 10	Active Elders and Deacons & Church Musicians
Jan. 17	First, McGehee & Church Administrators
Jan. 24	First, Lincoln & First, Heber Springs
Jan. 31	First, Ozark & Faith, Horseshoe Bend
Feb. 7	First, Jacksonville & Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Feb. 14	Woodlands, Hot Springs Village & Holiday Island Church
Feb. 21	Second, Little Rock & First, Yellville
Feb. 28	Walnut Grove, Farmington & First, Mena
Mar. 7	First United, Fayetteville & West Fork Church, West Fork
Mar. 14	First, Harrison & First, North Little Rock
Mar. 21	Mt. Comfort, Fayetteville & First, Dardanelle
Mar. 28	Good Shepherd, Greenwood & Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista
Apr. 4	Central, Fort Smith & Korean Ministry Fellowship, Fort Smith
Apr. 11	Alpine Church, Amity & Cleburne Avenue, West Helena

Apr. 18 First, Lonoke & Vaughn, Bentonville
Apr. 25 First, Hot Springs & Hispanic New Church Development, Springdale
May 2 Westover Hills, Little Rock & Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May 9 Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove & First, Alma
May 16 Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village & First, Searcy
May 23 Ferguson Memorial, Coal Hill & First, Fort Smith
May 30 Pulaski Heights, Little Rock & Harmony Church, Clarksville
June 6 First, Gravette & First, Pine Bluff
June 13 Graham Memorial, Forrest City & Elkins Federated, Elkins
June 20 Grace, Little Rock & First, Malvern
June 27 Barr Memorial, Norman & Hopewell Church, Morrilton
July 4 First, Mountain Home & First, Newport
July 11 First, Pocahontas & Presbytery Staff
July 18 Trinity, Little Rock & Spring River, Hardy
July 25 First, Bentonville & Westminster, Little Rock
Aug. 1 First, Conway & First, Prairie Grove
Aug. 8 First, Morrilton & First, Springdale
Aug. 15 Wynne Church, Wynne & First, Berryville
Aug. 22 Faith, Pine Bluff & First, Beebe
Aug. 29 Central, Pine Bluff & First, Little Rock
Sept. 5 First, Brinkley & First, Jonesboro
Sept. 12 First, Gurdon & Churches of Lacandon Presbytery, Mexico
Sept. 19 Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill & Christian Educators
Sept. 26 First, Van Buren & First, Batesville
Oct. 3 First, Eureka Springs & Central, Russellville
Oct. 10 First, Helena & West End, Arkadelphia
Oct. 17 Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals & First, Arkadelphia
Oct. 24 Campus/Camp Ministries & Hospital Chaplains/Counselors
Oct. 31 First, Siloam Springs & First, Rogers
Nov. 7 First, Marianna & Westminster, Hot Springs
Nov. 14 First, Paragould & Highland, Hot Springs
Nov. 21 Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg & Retired Ministers
Nov. 28 Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith & First, Stuttgart
Dec. 5 Memorial Church, Atkins & First, Walnut Ridge
Dec. 12 Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay & One-O-One Church, Gamaliel
Dec. 19 First, Clarksville & Park Hill, North Little Rock
Dec. 26 Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge & First, Huntsville

[PRESBYTERY CALENDAR](#)

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Associate General Presbyter [JOAN ERICKSON](#)
Resourcing Director & Assistant Stated Clerk [NIANN THOMPSON](#)
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Moderator of General Council JACKSON FARROW JR.



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. As such our mission is to ***Inspire, challenge and help our congregations, agencies, ministers and leaders to fulfill their call to service as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.***

We are composed of over 15,000 Presbyterians gathered in 90 congregations, 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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