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January 2010

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



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

Invictus, the recently released movie starring Morgan Freeman, depicts Nelson Mandela's governing of post-apartheid South Africa in the early 1990s. A particular focus is Mandela's wisdom in bringing unity to a country long-divided over race, economics and power. The film invites us to consider Mandela's approach in dealing with adversaries through the lens of the South African national rugby team, the Springboks.



To many of Mandela's supporters, the Springboks and their green and gold uniforms represent the old South Africa and its unjust practices. They argue that a new day calls for change, particularly with the Springboks who have an undistinguished record in international competition. The effort to change this national athletic symbol gains traction. But Mandela is convinced that the change will do more harm than good.

He expends considerable political capital in opposing the change of the Springboks' colors. His closest aide thinks it an unwise political move to invest so much in what she believes could be political suicide. Other more pressing issues need Mandela's attention: the infrastructure, the economy, etc. Mandela, however, realizes the symbolic power of the green and gold for opponents with whom he must now work in the new government. If they are not included, he reasons, the effort to create a new and more open South Africa will not succeed. He argues, "Without them, we fail." Mandela carries the day and the Springboks, clad in their traditional colors, go on to win the World Cup of Rugby, bringing acclaim to all of South Africa. He succeeds in getting the Springboks to be better than they think they can be. In so doing, he helps South Africa become a nation in which "all exceed our own expectations."

Dealing with opposition and long-standing tradition is a challenge to any leader. Certainly, it has implications for church leaders. How shall we deal with those who oppose new approaches to mission and ministry? How is change best instituted? Which traditions need to be honored and which need to be altered or added to? How can we work together with those with whom we disagree? How can we, too, exceed our own expectations?

Seeing the big picture is critical. Mandela's vision was bigger than throwing out the old to get on with the new. It was to create something new in which everyone had a place, everyone mattered. His was an audacious conviction that enemies could become friends, that truth can lead to freedom. He said, "Reconciliation starts here. Forgiveness starts here. It liberates the soul." Jesus seemed to see things similarly.

In faith,
Bill

Together in God's Grace

by Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson



I was recently asked how, during my time as a Youth Director, I was able to get so many youth together to attend youth group, church, presbytery, and synod-wide events. So I decided that I would also share my ideas with you in this article.



I think that a major contribution to my strategy was an attitude that, what some tend to think of as having to nag the youth to get signed up for an event, I thought of as opportunities for ministry and building community. So being in touch about events actually provided me a framework for regularly checking in with each youth. The in-person and on-the-phone conversations were excellent opportunities to keep in conversation with the youth, let them know that they mattered, how much they were cared for and that I would stay connected no matter how little or how much they attended youth activities.

I knew from my education training that it often takes three times for someone to really absorb information, therefore I made sure that I announce an event **3** times: at the beginning of a semester, at the beginning of the month, and at the beginning of the week that registration is due for an event. Announcing events could include at least **3** ways: poster of the events for the semester; postings in the church/youth room; church newsletter; post cards; spoken announcements in church, Sunday school, and youth group; individual phone calls and conversations; web site; Facebook; and text messages. I made the actual registration form available **3** ways: mailed out, handed out, and copies available in the church office for a quick stop-in to fill it out.

I hope that this is helpful as you seek to make visible the body of Christ as you encourage young disciples.

[Joan](#)

The Presbytery Youth Events and Trips

Middle School Mission

Presbytery's Youth Council is sponsoring a Mission Experience for grades 6-8 at Ferncliff over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday! Please save the date -- January 16-18, 2010! Cost is \$35 per youth and space is very limited!

We will be participating in some hands-on mission activities in central Arkansas as well as at Ferncliff, sharing Bible study, fellowship, and fun with middle school students around the Presbytery!

More information and registration forms have been sent out. If you have questions now, please e-mail Whitney Bordelon at whitneysingleton@hotmail.com

Junior High Jubilee registration

deadline February 1

Fun and faithful gathering for grades 6-8, July 10-15, Mo Ranch, Texas

Youth@Presbytery

registration deadline February 8

Senior High YouthQuake

registration deadline March 15

See the [Youth Council InfoBook](#) for trip registration forms. Packets will be mailed with Youth@Presbytery registration forms and later for Senior High YouthQuake forms.

A Polity Point

by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Commissioners to Presbytery - We are in a new year (liturgically and as the calendar turns) which means it is time to plan for the winter meeting of Presbytery.

Will it snow?

Will all of the Presbytery packets be downloaded?

Will your church be represented by commissioners?



Only one of these questions is outside of your responsibility, and ALL of these questions concern the members of our Presbytery. (We will leave the snow question for traveling mercies.)

Ministers and churches will be notified by e-mail when the Presbytery packets are available for download.

Commissioner representation is a responsibility that touches each of us. Each session of each congregation of our Presbytery is responsible for sending commissioner(s) to each meeting of Presbytery, and receiving and documenting a report back from these commissioners.

Churches shall be represented as follows:

under 500 members - 1 elder

501 - 1000 members - 2 elders

1001 - 1500 members - 3 elders

1501 - 2000 members - 4 elders ([Book of Order G-11.0101](#))

Churches with a membership of fewer than 500 members with more than one installed pastor (associate pastor, or co-pastors) shall be represented by elders equal to the number of installed pastors. The Presbytery of Arkansas has had this tradition in order to find a balance between the number of Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and elder commissioners attending the meetings of Presbytery.

It is the responsibility of each church to pay for the expenses of its elder and minister commissioners to Presbytery. Presbytery's General Council is well aware of the commitment of time and resources to attend these meetings and therefore it makes available at the meetings educational opportunities, fellowship time, and worship designed to enrich the mind and soul of each commissioner. There are also a wealth of resources made available for free or reasonable cost so that each person attending might learn what other congregations have found helpful in serving Christ and his church. Displays tell the story of our presbytery, resource center, and opportunities for mission and ministry that reach far beyond the business of the Presbytery meeting.

Who is your commissioner to the meetings of Presbytery this year?

Presbytery meetings for 2010 are:

February 19-20 Lyon College, Batesville

June 5 First Presbyterian, Malvern

October 8-9 First Presbyterian, Springdale

Resources for your commissioner, preparation for the meeting, and help for the report back to session, can be found in *The Banner*, and on the Presbytery of Arkansas web site.

Blessings and Peace for the New Year,

[Cathy](#)

**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."

Commissioners are invited to support Help and Hope, an agency in Batesville that depends on community and church donations to provide food, clothing and other household supplies to individuals and families in need. Specific items needed for the Ingathering at this presbytery meeting are: peanut butter, canned vegetables, soap, and shampoo.

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, Rev. Bill Branch leader.
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 due 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.

Freeman to be Installed as Presbytery Moderator



the Presbytery of Lacandon in Chiapas, Mexico.

Rev. Dr. Debra Carl Freeman, pastor of Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock, will be installed as the moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas on Friday evening, February 19 at the 113th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery at Lyon College, Batesville. Ordained to the ministry in 1988, Freeman earned a D.Min. degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, VA. A member of the presbytery since 1990, Freeman previously was co-pastor of Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff and has served on presbytery committees on Ministry, Church Development, and Mission. Freeman is liaison with

Husband Jim, currently interim pastor at First, Pine Buff, and "Debbie" are parents of Lindsay, a sophomore at UALR, and William, a sophomore at Central High in Little Rock. She loves reading, walking, photography, movies, traveling, Celtic spirituality and experiencing God's blessings in worship and service.



Elder Claire Rhodes of Hot Springs, moderator of presbytery during 2009, was



elected as moderator of General Council for 2010. Rhodes serves with her husband Kenneth as commissioned lay pastors at West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia. Council, which is composed of a representative elected from each of the presbytery's nine geographic clusters, six at-large members nominated by Committee on Nominations and elected by the presbytery, plus seven ex-officio, non-voting members, has scheduled four meetings for this year.



Elder Jackson Farrow Jr. of Little Rock has completed his two years of service to the presbytery--as presbytery moderator in 2008 and as General Council moderator in 2009. He is a member of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and General Counsel for Stephens, Inc.

The thanks of the presbytery go to these three gifted and willing servants of God's church.

PEOPLE AND CHURCH NEWS

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- **Theresa Spragins** of Russellville began service as Director of Christian Education at First, Springdale on December 27.
- **Rev. Dennis Ritchie**, pastor of Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, is a member of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network.
- Christian sympathy goes to **Jim and Melba Keyes** of Flippin in the death of her mother, Ruth Walker, on December 30. Jim is the commissioned lay pastor at First, Yellville and at One-o-One Presbyterian, Gamaliel.
- Ferncliff Executive Director **Rev. David Gill** is featured in the January/February edition of "Presbyterians Today" magazine in the article "Ready for Disasters" on assembling clean-up buckets which are then stored at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance warehouse on the grounds of Ferncliff Camp, Little Rock.
- **Rev. Anne Russ** was featured in the January 9 issue of the the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* in the article "Art of Renewal: An open door to artists, and a bit of generosity, have helped church bounce back." Anne is temporary supply for First, North Little Rock.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

- **First, Morrilton** will host 42 international students from 19 different countries on January 23.
- Children and youth of **First, Rogers** collected non-perishable food for local food pantries at their December 13th Christmas program during worship.
- **First, Clarksville** hosted a chili supper at the community Christmas parade with the proceeds benefiting a local child development center.
- **First, Hot Springs** donated 149 coats through their Bargain Box re-sale shop to needy children in Garland County. They collected and saved coats throughout the year.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** held an Open House for single church members on December 13.
- **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** supports Pennies for Peace, an international service/learning program for education in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- **Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted a Christmas party on December 20 for all college students connected to the church (local members, members who study away from Little Rock, and those who live away but study in Little Rock).
- The men of **First, Walnut Ridge** delivered Christmas food baskets to needy families on December 19.
- **Westminster, Hot Springs** published an article on the Presbyterian understanding of baptism in preparation for Baptism of the Lord Sunday on January 10.
- **Holiday Island Presbyterian** hosted the community blood drive on December 14.
- **Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village** offers various delivery methods for their monthly

newsletter to church members: e-mail, pick up paper version, read on the church web site or receive by mail.

- **Faith Presbyterian, Horseshoe Bend** began the Christmas season with 97 boxes for Operation Christmas Child and followed with the Christmas Cantata and Tea hosted by Presbyterian Women on December 5, food and gift baskets for the needy, Elder Angel Tree providing gifts for 20 residents of the local nursing home, and hosted a piano concert on December 17. Christmas caroling on December 22 spread from the nursing home to homes of those "over 55" with the invitation to all to come to the church for refreshments.

- The youth of **West Fork Presbyterian** prepared Christmas cards for members of the congregation, 140 cards for residents of The Maples nursing home, 72 cards and fleece scarves for those in the local Veterans Hospital, 68 cards and scarves for residents of the Veterans Home, cards to each resident of the City Hospital, cards for local Meals-on-Wheels participants, and cards and blankets were taken to the Homeless Shelter. Youth also purchased toys and clothing for 18 children with money they had saved or had collected.

- **First, Jacksonville** has scheduled a Session Retreat on January 16 and a Wholeness Service on January 31.

THE CHURCH CONNECTIONAL

- **Park Hill Presbyterian**, North Little Rock youth will hold soup pots at the exits of the sanctuary on (football) Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, for Souper Bowl of Caring to accept money for the Little Rock Stewpot hunger-relief agency housed at **First, Little Rock**.

- **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** will host Friday Bible Study beginning the morning of February 12, covering the second half of 1st Kings and all of 2nd Kings, and led by Rev. David Dyer, pastor of **First, Jacksonville**.

NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS

- **Rev. Richard Hardie** of Little Rock is now a resident of an assisted living facility in Little Rock. He is pastor emeritus of Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock.

- **Rev. Richard Knott** of Benton has been the temporary pulpit supply at First, Benton.

- **Rev. Henry Moore** is now a resident of Covington Court Nursing Home in Fort Smith.

- **Rev. Jim Miller** of Little Rock began service on January 1 as interim pastor at First, Little Rock.

Idea of the Month

First, Pine Bluff members placed specially-made hangers on the doorknobs of homes surrounding the church and in their neighborhood to invite everyone to their Christmas Eve Service.

A Note of Thanks

Members of Presbytery committees, commissions, Council and staff donated reimbursable mileage (for attending meetings) worth \$11,605.56 to the Presbytery in 2009, giving generously of time, talent and treasure.

First, Mena Celebrates Christmas

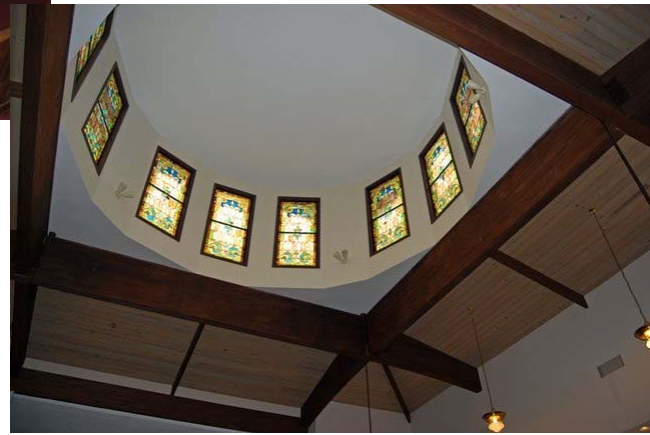
by Sue Quinney, Clerk of Session





First, Mena was heavily damaged by a tornado on Maundy Thursday last spring. Presbytery's Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response and several congregations responded to the needs of the Mena congregation. Here are photos of the repaired and reopened sanctuary.

The sanctuary is pictured above and the lantern, which was blown open and apart by the tornado, is pictured at the right.



News from Ferncliff

Ferncliff is a member of Trinity/HPSI, a large buying cooperative. The camp receives an approximate 13% discount on food purchases with Sysco, but another major discount that might help some churches is with Suburban Propane. Joining the Trinity/HPSI cooperative is totally free. You just sign up and notify the supplier that you get the Trinity/HPSI discount. There are a host of discounts, but especially if your church uses propane. You may want to talk with Ferncliff Executive Director [Rev. David Gill](#) (501.821.3063) about this program and check Trinity/HPSI's web site <http://www.trinity-usa.net>.

Confirmation Camp February 26-28 Ferncliff Camp

Confirmation class youth are invited to join each other to learn, apply and create a new church over the Confirmation Camp weekend where fun and faith flourish! Cost is \$95 for confirmands and \$50 for adults. Call Abby Cain (501.821.3063) for details.

Validated Ministry - Rev. Susan Rose

by [Brian Perry](#), Communications Director

Rev. Susan Rose serves as minister at United Campus Ministry (UCM), University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Susan is a graduate of the University of Florida and Memphis Theological Seminary, and was ordained and installed on November 1. She has previously served as Director of Congregational Life at First, Springdale; Pulpit Supply at Middleburg Presbyterian, Jacksonville, Florida; Congregational Life Intern at Mandarin Presbyterian, Jacksonville, Florida; and Youth Minister at Bartlett Presbyterian, Bartlett, Tennessee.



At UCM, Susan works with the students through fellowship, Bible study, worship and mission. Students

meet Mondays for "Pizza and Planning;" Thursdays for Bible study; and worship every other Sunday. Some students attend church with Susan on Sunday mornings in the Northwest Arkansas area as Susan travels to increase awareness of UCM.

On Tuesdays Susan can be found working with the Brownbaggers Book Club.

She plans on expanding the mission component in the spring. Ideas include working on a Habitat for Humanity project in the area or possibly doing a mission weekend in Chicago. Other ideas include being more involved in missions in the Presbytery, including: visiting the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home in Monticello for ministry and fellowship; helping with YouthQuakes; working to be a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance "satellite" center in northwest Arkansas; and participating in the Solar Under the Sun project.



Her Presbytery service includes her new role as moderator of Presbytery's Campus Ministry subcommittee of the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.

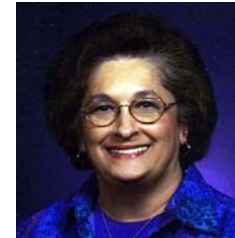
Susan states, "Presbyterians have a rich history at the University of Arkansas that spans over 100 years. I am honored to be a part of this tradition as we continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the campus and the community. Our ministry and mission continue to tell the story of the gospel as our work allows us to take our place in Presbyterian history."

Students, parents and congregations can reach Susan at United Campus Ministry phone 479.442.8041 or ucm_chaplain@yahoo.com.

Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

by [Pauline Rhodes](#)

December Revenue	\$294,545.73	Year-to-Date Actual as of December 31
December Expenses	<u>\$124,063.14</u>	Revenue \$1,000,582.41*
December Net	\$170,482.59	Expenses \$ <u>963,106.96</u>
		Net \$ 37,475.45



*Includes \$112,110.20 transferred from reserves.

Statistical Reports Reminder

Statistical Reports (those entered online for General Assembly and physical copies mailed to Presbytery) are due February 23. Contact Pauline at 501.663.2424 if you have any questions.

2009 Pledges

Churches can still honor their 2009 pledge and receive fiscal year 2009 credit for them.

Presbyterian Women News

by [Mary Beth Lysobey](#), Moderator, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

The Timeline for Presbyterian Women states that each local church's Presbyterian Women History for 2009 must be sent in by January 31, and it should be mailed to Ginny Jones, 11076 Plantation Lake, Scott, AR 72142. Please include the unique mission outreach projects in the history. Hopefully we can include some of these in future Banner issues.

There are several openings on the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. If you feel led to get involved in the leadership of Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women, please let your Cluster Leader know ([e-mail me](#) if you need this contact information). Coordinating team members have wonderful opportunities to witness for Christ and lasting friendships are forged! New officers will be installed at the Spring Gathering at Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville on April 24th. Leadership training will be held the following week, April 30-May 1st, at Ferncliff Camp.

The Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Women Gathering will be held in Oklahoma City on July 15-18. We plan to get a busload of Arkansas Presbyterian Women to this event.

Please place these opportunities on your calendars and talk about them at your Presbyterian Women meetings. Remember to allow God to do wonders among you in your Presbyterian Women activities.

Mission Giving by Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery for 2009

by [Karene Jones](#), Treasurer, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

It is with a grateful heart that we thank the women of the Presbytery of Arkansas for their continued giving in these difficult times to those who have much less. The giving for 2009 was up \$3,000 over the giving to missions in 2008.

Centsability \$8181.90
Birthday Offering \$11,616.98
Gift to Missionaries \$60.00
Goodland Home \$200.00
Honorary Life Memberships \$1,635.00
Lancandon Missions \$330.00
Least Coin Giving \$2,415.17
Missions, PC(USA) \$14,435.00
Mission, Synod \$1,500.00
Thank Offering \$11,874.42
Vera Lloyd Home \$550.00
Congo for Mattresses \$600.00
Congo for Psalm Trees \$297.61
Haiti Foundation \$55.00
Disaster Assistance, PDA \$988.00

Total Extra Mile Giving \$54,739.08

Green Living in God's World

by [Betsy Gillaspy-Williams](#)

To start your new year explore the following:

Two new web sites with scores of info on living green and how others are doing it.

www.presbyterian.typepad.com/ecojourney is a Blog of the Environmental Ministries Office of the Presbyterian Church USA and is authored by Katie Holmes. She lists events, links to 'green' articles, eco-theology topics, stories of churches 'going green', and a report from Copenhagen among others.

www.greenarbytheday.wordpress.com is an Arkansas site that lists meetings/events in Arkansas, places to buy local foods raised sustainably (such as honey), a list of steps to take to become more "green," recipes, homemade cleaning supplies, arts & crafts, alternate energy, biking, and much more! You could spend hours exploring both of these sites.

Christ's Small Church: Deep and Wide

Small Church Retreat and Workshops

The **Small Church Retreat** is a special opportunity to learn from and interact with Rev. Philip Lotspeich, our denomination's expert and leader in the area of Church Growth. Celebrating and encouraging small churches is a big part of the fun of this event. You can expect benefits for you and your church by attending the keynotes and various workshops, plus be a part of the building-up of the body of Christ with fellowship. Please register by February 24 for this event on March 4-6 at Ferncliff. Get all the details and registration form with the brochure available [here](#).

Presbyterian Cursillo in Arkansas

Have you considered attending Cursillo? Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith. The objective of Cursillo is to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action in the church, home, place of work, and community.

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo does not aim to convert one from unbelief to belief. Cursillo provides a life-changing experience for Presbyterians who seek continued growth in their faith and commitment. It is an experience which people enter through a three-day retreat led by lay people who have experienced Cursillo. Ordained ministers are also on staff for the retreat.

Cursillo retreats will be held on April 15-18 and October 14-17 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock. Participants will experience a weekend filled with short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussions and great food.

Participants often discover a new and exciting relationship with Jesus Christ, and then take that newfound relationship back to their own home, work and church environments.

Applications are available on the Cursillo website (www.cursillo-arkansas.org) or by contacting the registrar at 501.760.3422 or arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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.

(Beginning February 1 New Days: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)



Greetings, friends, and best wishes for the new year to you, your family and friends, and your congregation.

Today a new patron of the Resource Center was "ooing" and "aahing" over our collection and proclaimed: "Why didn't I come here sooner!" Let that not be the case with you and your resource needs in 2010! Please start with the Resource Center to see if we have (or know of) exactly what you need as an individual or for your group.

Starting in February, I will be in the Resource Center Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (rather than Friday) from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. to assist you and answer your questions. Other weekdays other office staff are in the building.

Two interesting **RAVE REVIEWS** have been received:

TSgt. Nikki Robinson points out to all groups who deal with issues of military service and sacrifice that the DVD "**The Four Chaplains**" (Acc. #8625) is quite meaningful. "For persons in the military chaplaincy, and those who provide religious ministry support, this story sets the tone for our purpose and existence, especially during a time of war. The story is one of hope, courage, strength and faith. Chaplains model these elements daily as they care for Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen." This DVD might be useful in your setting for Memorial Day, Fourth of July or Veterans Day programs and gatherings.

First, Jonesboro was the first congregation to use the new resource "**Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?**" (DVD and book #9275) Class member Dick Freer writes "The Advent Conspiracy engaged our adult Sunday School in reflection and sharing on the nature of gifting in our lives, especially during Christmastime. The leaders of what has become a national movement offer principles and practices that are simple, Biblical and practical and at the same time, radical. Each of four sessions begins with a 10-15 minute DVD, and the study guide was very helpful with starter questions. Ensuing conversations have brought us closer together, and we plan a review of what we actually changed about our Christmas giving this month. View this in October or November before participants begin their Christmas gift planning and purchasing!"

HOW WILL YOU PREPARE FOR LENT?

Ash Wednesday is on February 17 this year so you have a month to get ready. Why not make YOUR Resource Center part of that preparation? There's still time to review any of the following:

DVD "**God Heard Their Cry**" (Acc. #9299) includes five sessions on how God answered the cry of persecuted people in the Exodus.

Video "**The Power of Forgiveness**" (Acc. #9256) is a four-session study on the origin, definition, need for and possibility of forgiving those who hurt us.

Book "**Rituals for the Celebration of Later Life**" (Acc. #9308) is part of the Older Adult Issues Series from the PC(USA) and covers time, significance, daily celebration, milestones, seasonal celebrations, and holy days.

Book "**Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers: A Handbook**" (Acc. #9283) is a new resource that provides ideas for dealing with interpersonal relationships and identifies ways to create an atmosphere supporting elders and deacons.

Stewardship is (or should be) on everyone's mind this year. Check out the Presbyterian Stewardship Conference "Stewardship Kaleidoscope" for elders, pastors, presbytery staff and volunteers entitled "Funding Mission Today and Tomorrow" March 15-17 in Indianapolis. Keynote presentations, 28 workshops, inspiring worship are offered by the sponsoring partners, one of which is the Synod of the Sun. Visit www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org for updates.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Winter Weather Advisory can be found [here](#).

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Associate General Presbyter [JOAN ERICKSON](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Presbytery & Financial Administrator [PAULINE RHODES](#)

Communications Director [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist JESSE GONZALEZ

Treasurer BILLY STONE

Incoming Moderator of Presbytery DEBRA CARL FREEMAN

Vice Moderator of Presbytery SAM HIGHSMITH

Moderator of General Council CLAIRE RHODES



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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