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January 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"Godspeed, Brian"

Over the past five years, the Presbytery of Arkansas has been privileged and blessed by Brian Perry. Brian came onto the staff as Communications Director and over the last half of 2011 added service as our Director of Mission Support. It is with mixed emotion that we say farewell to Brian as he prepares for his new work as Second Presbyterian's Business Administrator. Brian and, before him, Pauline Rhodes, have been on the front-line of the Presbytery's staff. Callers have been warmly greeted and offered whatever help might be needed. When people picture the Presbytery of Arkansas, their impressions have frequently been shaped by those who first answer, "Hello, Presbytery of Arkansas..." Recently, that person has been Brian who has consistently represented the Presbytery at its best.



Brian has been our "go to" person in ways far beyond greeting visitors by phone or in person as they come through the front door. While he has edited "The Banner" and overseen the transition from entirely in-house financial management to a collaborative effort with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, there is much more. We have relied on Brian to troubleshoot technical problems whether they be with the phone system, software or computers. He has also handled the logistics of building and property maintenance and management. Brian has effectively bridged the sensitive matters of being fiscally responsible while wisely stewarding the gifts of the Presbytery to undergird mission and ministry.

The much more also includes Brian's willingness to use his considerable abilities to help other staff and committee leaders, to listen to those stumped by "church policies" or in need of direction toward available help. For those who have worked closely with Brian, we most appreciate his relationship as a trusted colleague, confidant, encourager and friend.

I know you will want to personally express your appreciation to Brian for his generous contribution to our life together.

Brian concluded his work with the Presbytery yesterday and began work at Second Presbyterian today.

Yours in faith,

[Bill](#)

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments in January
24 Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, Ferncliff
29-31 Mid-Winter Lectures, Austin Seminary, Austin, Texas

New Format Followed at Presbytery Meeting

When the Presbytery of Arkansas meets for the 119th Stated Meeting on February 17-18 at Lyon College, Batesville a new look featuring education for use in the local congregation will be prominent. The schedule follows:

3:30 p.m., Friday, February 17, Registration and Pre-Presbytery Workshops (choose one)
 "Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide" led by Rev. Randi Henderson
 "Annual Training for Clerks and Moderators of Session" led by Rev. Clare Kelley

Dinner on your own.

6:15 p.m. Opening Session for business matters
 6:50 p.m. Presbytery moves to Workshops as assigned
 A. "Conflict is Systemic" led by Dr. David Jones, Austin Seminary
 B. "Stewardship Presentation" led by Rev. Laura Mendenhall, Texas Presbyterian Foundation
 (Commissioners then move from A to B, or B to A, so they may hear both presenters.)
 9:00 p.m. President's Reception

Saturday, February 18

8:30 a.m. Presbytery reconvenes
 8:40 Plenary "Peace is Systemic" by Dr. David Jones
 9:45 a.m. Order of the Day: Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and installation of moderator Rev. David Dyer and vice moderator Sheree Niece
 11:00 a.m. Business meeting resumes, lunch and business continues

Youth Advisory Delegates in grades 9 through 12 are invited to the February presbytery meeting. Worship offering recipient will be the Lyon College Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship.

Nominations Committee Seeks Willing Workers

As your Sessions meet in January and February, please consider discussing and suggesting talented members of your congregation for service beginning in January, 2013 on presbytery committees. A form for this purpose has been emailed to every church and is available on the Presbytery's website or you may email niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org with names and contact information before March 1.

People and Church News

News of Our People

- Rev. Marion Humphrey, pastor of Allison Presbyterian, Little Rock served as visiting pastor at University of the Ozarks November 28 - December 2 as part of the University's Pastoral Study Leave Program.
- Congratulations to Rev. Leslie and Mr. Ted Belden of Fayetteville on the birth of a grandson, Kennedy Clark Carroll, on January 9 in North Little Rock to Mary Belden Carroll and Clark Carroll. Rev. Belden is parish associate at First United, Fayetteville and Ted is a member of Committee on Clusters. Maternal great-grandmother is Mary Virginia Smith of Little Rock, a commissioner from this presbytery to the Synod.
- Christian sympathy goes to Mrs. Gina Christman and family on the death on December 27 of Rev. Dr. William J. Christman of Joplin, Missouri, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Christman served as interim pastor at First, Mena from November 27, 2010 until he was injured in a fall in July.
- Lauren Treptow has resigned as youth director at First, Rogers.
- Christian sympathy goes to Liz and Lon Hardin of Hot Springs Village on the death of her brother Joe

Payne of Malvern on December 23. Liz is the commissioned ruling elder at First, Gurdon.

- Leigh Woodruff Harvey has resigned as Director of Children's Ministry at First, Fort Smith.
- Congratulations to Rev. Gordon Garlington who received a master of arts degree in history from the University of Central Arkansas, Conway on December 17. Garlington is pastor of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock and moderator of the presbytery's Committee on Mission.
- Rev. David King, honorably retired, of Little Rock has assumed duties as the Director of Development for Presbyterian Village in Little Rock. King is stated supply at First, Brinkley.
- Rev. Emmett Powers of Pochontas began service on January 1 as temporary supply at First, Batesville.

News of Our Congregations

- First, Arkadelphia offered year-end alternative giving options in honor or memory of a loved one to support children's programs, underwrite the church childcare provider, assist the Pastor's Discretionary Fund or provide a choir scholarship.
- First, Little Rock's Stewpot ministry distributed Christmas gift packages of a blanket, knit cap, gloves, socks, rain poncho, hand warmers and toiletries to 200 diners.
- Mountainburg Presbyterian presented a living nativity scene on December 14 and caroled to friends in the community on December 19.
- Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff held two Saturday Christmas-shopping fundraisers in December to benefit their playground.
- First, Pine Bluff's building was the site of a Hanukkah service on December 16.
- Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock's Session gathers for prayer with the pastor 10 minutes before worship each Sunday.
- First, Hot Springs is adding a time for the "passing of the peace" to their morning worship service.
- Second Presbyterian, Little Rock is again offering the popular reading program "The Bible in 90 Days" which began on January 8.
- First, Rogers has received a Lilly grant for "greening" of the property.
- First, Van Buren publishes the lectionary readings for each Sunday of the month in that month's newsletter.
- The Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista has a unique group of Toy Makers and Toy Painters who work year-round to create handmade wooden toys for children's charities in northwest Arkansas. This year the two groups of men and women made over 200 toys to be donated during the Christmas season. Interested wood workers and painters in the community are invited to join. Call the church office at 479.855.2390 for more details.
- Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City is sponsoring and opening its gym doors to a basketball team made up of elementary and middle school boys from the most marginal of circumstances. They feel that this is a way to teach values, discipline, and to promote good citizenship and the ability to function in a team setting. Prior to practice Rev. Larry Mitchell and GMPC Elders offer devotional and reflection time to these youth as their next step as a mission church.

Youth at Presbytery

Follow the Leader

February 17-18

Lyon College

Batesville, AR

Information & Registration Form [Here](#)

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

Farewell

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

As this edition of The Banner is sent out I'm on my first day of work at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock as Business Administrator. Ending my five years of service at Presbytery was not an easy choice.



I've enjoyed my time here and I have many people to thank. Rev. Dr. Bill Branch hired me with a year left in his term as General Presbyter, he was followed by Interim GP Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, and she by GP Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith. I have worked with three Stated Clerks, Rev. Clare Kelley, Elder Doyle Webb and Rev. Cathy Ulrich. I've been fortunate to work with Presbytery staff Whitney Bordelon, Joan Erickson, Pauline Rhodes, NiAnn Thompson and Rev. Michael Vinson; and Presbytery Moderators Barbara Webb, Rev. Stewart Smith, Jackson Farrow Jr., CRE Claire Rhodes, Rev. Debra Carl Freeman, and Sam Highsmith. And then there are all the minister members of Presbytery, all of the Elders serving on committees, and the many gracious church staff we have throughout the Presbytery. It has been a wonderful experience to work here and learn from these people.

I now follow in the footsteps of Charlie Bausch who has served 24 years at Second. His legacy alone is reason enough to accept the challenges and opportunities of moving to a new position here.

Save the Date

"A New Journey Begins"

Northwest Arkansas Cluster Confirmation Retreat

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

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

Cost: \$20/youth, deadline is January 20th.

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

Annual Retreat for Teaching Elders, Educators and Commissioned Ruling Elders

April 22-24

Creativity: God's Way With Us

More information is available [here](#).

(The retreat is sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Care & Nurture of Church Professionals.)

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (formerly Cursillo)

April 26-29

Fernclyff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

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

Mo-Ranch College Connection

May 14-18

Are you a college student? Do you know any college students?

This summer college students will gather at Mo-Ranch to relax and recharge both in faith and friendship.

Director: Rev. Kendal Land, pastor, First, Arkadelphia

Co-Director: Rev. Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, University of Arkansas

More information can be found [here](#).

[Resource Center News](#)

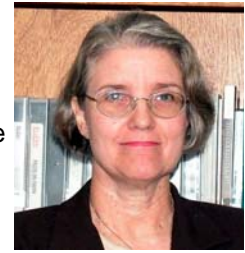
by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director

Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

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

RAVE REVIEWS

- Linda LeBron, moderator of Christian Education and Nurture Committee of the presbytery, remarks that the new **"Wee Children at Church"** kit is useful for enriching any childcare setting in a church, contains good training material for workers and gives information on setting up rooms.
- Rev. Al Henager, First, Heber Springs writes: In **"Christianity's Family Tree,"** (Acc. #DVD8987 or 9524) Adam Hamilton offers a survey of eight major denominations ranging from the Orthodox to Methodists and most others in between. It contains a DVD of 12 to 15 minute talks on each denomination, along with a study guide, a leader's guide, and a publicity guide. The study offers historical as well and theological insights, focusing mainly on the positive things we can learn from each denominational group. The people of our congregation responded quite positively, and I felt we all grew in our faith as a result of the study."
- Sue Rennie, Park Hill, North Little Rock called to report the class was so glad to add the Advent study **"The Scriptures Sing of Christmas"** (Acc. #BK8522) to their Sunday School class and grateful for the format from John's and Luke's gospels, written reflection, questions, and prayer.



What resource, your own or one borrowed from YOUR Resource Center, deserves your "rave review"?

NEW MEMBER TRAINING

Why not start the new year with training on what it means to be Presbyterian? The following titles in the "Being Reformed" curriculum series of six-session studies from our denomination, all of which are available in the Resource Center, can help:

Theology for Presbyterians, John Calvin: Founder of the Reformed Tradition, Church History: Those Who Shaped the Christian Faith, A Brief Statement of Faith, Discipleship: The Way of Jesus, Re-membering Baptism, Seeking Social Justice.

LENTEN SUGGESTIONS

The sacred season of Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 22. What are your study plans? Please consider the **"Book by Book"** series of DVDs and study guides, which single out six to ten key passages from New Testament books. Now available are **I and II Thessalonians** (Acc. #DVD9560), **I Peter** (Acc. #DVD9561), **John** (Acc. #DVD9565) and **Philippians** (Acc. #DVD9567), added to other studies from **Acts, James, Galatians, II Timothy and II Corinthians**. Several groups have combined this AV study with the Interpretation Bible Study of the same book with great results!

(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](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery & General Council [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)



The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Our vision is ***to make visible the body of Christ*** (Acts II).

We are composed of over 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, two new church developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>

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