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April 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



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

Toney D. McMillan Fund for Vocational Discernment Established

When one thinks of key leaders of the Presbytery of Arkansas through its history, Toney McMillan readily comes to mind. Toney is best remembered for his dedicated work through the Committee on Ministry. Some will recall Toney as the one willing to undertake difficult assignments where the truth needed to be told with clarity and care. Toney was fearless in conflicted situations and was at his best when anxiety was high. Although Toney practiced law, he was also a Minister of Word and Sacrament with keen sensitivity to the struggles of pastors and the need for pastoral and congregational health. Some, this GP included, were the recipients of the hospitality offered by Toney and his wife, Jill. When the stresses of ministry were most intense, they opened their Lake Hamilton home and said, "You're welcome to come and just be."



Toney's untimely death in November 2009 came as a shock. Strong leaders are noticed by their presence but, perhaps, more profoundly by their absence. We continue to miss Toney's upbeat spirit, wit and wise counsel. But his legacy continues. Late last year, the Harper Foundation of Wimberley, Texas, and the Ross Foundation of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, on whose boards Toney served, indicated the desire to recognize Toney's service. Through their gifts, the Toney D. McMillan Fund for Vocational Discernment has been established.

There are times in the lives of pastors and other church professionals, as well as in congregational life, when vocational assessment is indicated. The McMillan Fund has been created to assist those who need assistance in this vocational discernment. Although resources are available, the cost to avail oneself of these services may be beyond the reach of particular pastors or church professionals. Grants from the income generated by the McMillan Fund may be approved for individuals seeking financial help for vocational discernment.

Jill and her sons, Carter and Kevin, recently spoke about the McMillan Fund:

"In honor of Toney's many years of faithful service to the Presbyterian church, both as a pastor and lay leader, the McMillan family hopes that the Toney D. McMillan Fund, so graciously initiated by two foundation boards on which he served, will function to mitigate stress points in the lives of church professionals. We also hope that this fund might be sustained and offer options for memorials to individuals and families who share Toney's concern for the health and stability of the Presbyterian Church. We offer special thanks to the Ross Foundation of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and the Harper Foundation of Wimberley, Texas, for the initial gifts that made this fund possible, and to General Presbyter and dear

friend, Bill Galbraith, who worked tirelessly alongside Toney and now alongside his family to continue Toney's commitment to the church he loved."

Those wishing to make memorial or honor gifts recognizing others may choose to designate the McMillan Fund as the recipient of such gifts. Gifts may be made to the Presbytery of Arkansas and noted, "Toney McMillan Fund." The names of those being memorialized or honored as well as those to be notified are requested with each gift. The Presbytery's address is: Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227.

In faith,
[Bill](#)

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

PROXY VOTING

Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. (G-4.0301d)



This statement is one of the principles of our Presbyterian form of government. When we gather as a body (in the session meeting room, or as a presbytery) this means that we gather well prepared, having prayerfully considered the items of business that have been made available to us. And this means we gather with our hearts and minds open to the Spirit of God, as it speaks to us in the worship, the prayers offered, the discussion on the floor, the advisory votes cast, and only then when we are asked to cast our vote on an issue.

We can see the theological reasons for barring a proxy vote. A proxy vote is a decision made outside of the assembly. If the vote is made ahead of time, and brought to the body, it lacks the opportunity to change the decision after having discerned the mind of Christ. We are called to seek God's will along with all of the voices present and representing the body of Christ.

There is one small provision in the Book of Order (G-7.0404) where proxy voting might be possible with respect to a corporate matter during a congregational meeting, where civil law requires that voting by proxy shall be permitted. However, in Arkansas, there is no such civil law requirement.

Listening to one another is our covenant responsibility, and brings powerful new ways of serving Christ and his Church.

Lenten Blessings,
[Cathy](#)

117th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas
Saturday, June 4 - Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock
by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Assistant Stated Clerk

8:15 a.m. Registration opens
8:45 a.m. Annual training of Cluster Records Review Teams
9:30 a.m. Gavel
9:45 a.m. Worship, including renewal of baptismal vows
10:30 a.m. Order of the Day on proposed new Form of Government by Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), debate and vote.

Highlights: Recognition of Pauline Rhodes as she retires from Presbytery staff, welcome of new ministers, annual report of Committee on Mission and Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, and fellowship at lunch by cluster groupings. The worship offering recipient is the partnership with the Presbytery of Lacandon in Mexico.

The meeting packet will be posted on the Presbytery web site by May 16th.

Education for Elders Opportunity

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, will conduct "Education for Elders" at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, concurrent with the Presbytery meeting at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock.

Officers, active and inactive, who are **not** commissioners to the Presbytery meeting will have the benefit of Gradye's vast experience with Presbyterian polity and officer training.

This will be a "continuing education" opportunity for elders who are currently serving on session or have served in the past. It will be a time to learn more about the vocation of serving as an officer of the church, what that looks like and how we are uniquely equipped to do it.



Rev. Gradye
Parsons

Please notify the Presbytery office by email (info@presbyteryofarkansas.org) or phone (501.663.2424) of your plans to participate.

Wilson Installed as First Presbyterian, Yellville Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery installed Rev. Rita Wilson as pastor on Sunday, March 6. They are (front) Rev. Nancy Taylor, Rev. Courtney Furman (guest sitting with the Commission), Rev. Wilson, Elder Donna Farmer, (middle) Elder Keith Burt, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, General Presbyter Rev. Bill Galbraith, (back) Rev. David Gill, Commissioned Lay Pastor Jim Keyes (guest sitting with the Commission), and Elder Dan Pierce.

Carrington Ordained at Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton



An Administrative Commission of the Presbytery ordained Rev. Joy Carrington on Sunday, March



13. She will serve as tent-making pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton. Members of the Commission are Rev. Marion Humphrey, Presbytery Moderator Sam Highsmith, Rev. Carrington, Elder Susan Morris, Elder Katy Bates, and Rev. Ken Upham.

Solar School Training Continues



Solar Under the Sun (SUTS) completed another training weekend, March 17-20, at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. The next classes are scheduled for May 19-22 and September 15-18. Learn more and register [here](#).

Mission Corner

by [Rev. Dr. William Branch](#), World Mission Advocate, Presbytery of Arkansas

When a tornado hit Atkins, Arkansas, and traveled through Clinton and beyond, two members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team (NRT) came to Arkansas to help with our response to this tragedy. One was a pastor and one was a nurse. These volunteers gave advice and support and a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) grant to help with the clean-up and recovery.



When a tornado hit Mena, Arkansas, on a Maundy Thursday, two members of the NRT and your presbytery disaster response committee sat in the parlor of the Mena church less than 24 hours later to help the church plan for Easter Sunday services and to pray with the session as they considered how they would repair their damaged church and help the community around them. Oh, by the way, there was a PDA grant to help with the work that was before them as well.

After 32 people were shot and killed at Virginia Tech, after some youth lost their lives in a grain silo accident in Illinois, after a congresswoman was shot in Arizona and in many other places the PDA NRT was there to give spiritual and emotional care to local care-givers. YOU were there through PDA because you made such responses possible through the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. One third of this annual offering goes to PDA for its work in the U.S. and around the globe.

In Haiti, Japan, Chile, Pakistan and other places around the world where natural or human caused disasters strike, you are there through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. One pastor who is

now on the National Response Team tells of sitting in his study the day after a shooting had devastated his community. He was at a loss as to what to do, but then he looked up to see two people in the familiar blue shirts of the PDA walk in. They looked like angels to him, and indeed they embodied the message that you and all of the Presbyterian Church (USA) were there to support and give guidance.

Please remember to support the One Great Hour offering, and if you would like to have someone from the NRT or the Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee speak to a group at your church, please contact me (wwbranch@comcast.net or 501.425.3135), and we will schedule someone to speak to your fellowship supper, women's or men's group, Sunday School class or other event.

People and Church News

News of Our People

- Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Elder **Manford Burris** of First, Alma and a graduate of Presbytery's Lay Academy who died on March 11.
- **Rev. Bill Henning**, honorably retired, of Marshall is recovering from eye surgery.
- **Rev. Jim Chaffin**, honorably retired, of Hot Springs Village will be honored on May 13 by Henderson State University, Arkadelphia as a Distinguished Alumni.
- **Rev. Bobby Williamson, Jr.** of Conway has earned a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) from Emory University. He is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Hendrix College and parish associate at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- Certified Associate Christian Educator **Theresa Spragins** has resigned as Director of Christian Education at First, Springdale and begun service as DCE at First, Conway, effective April 5.
- Congratulations to **Tim and Kerri Guest** on the birth of their daughter Kimberlysia on February 24. He is youth director at First, Hot Springs.
- Best wishes to **Leigh Woodruff and Rick Harvey** who were married on March 20 on Kailua Beach in Oahu, Hawaii. They are at home in Fort Smith where Leigh is Director of Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian.
- **Jay Marlar**, a student at Arkansas Tech, is the new youth director at Central Presbyterian, Russellville. He is also a member of the church choir.
- Congratulations to **Mary and Jeff Shaw** on the birth of a grandson Parker Noah Mason on March 30 in North Little Rock. Parents are Stephanie and Brent Mason. Mary is youth director at First, Bentonville.
- **Rev. Jim Miller** had concluded his term as interim pastor at First, Little Rock.

News of Our Congregations & Ministries

- **First, McGehee** will celebrate its centennial on September 30-October 2 by producing a DVD, memorial projects for the community, an organ concert and a centennial cookbook.
- **First, Pine Bluff Presbyterian Women** financially supports a Christian widow in the Ukraine.
- **Mountainburg Presbyterian** fed a group of youth and adults from **Central and First, Fort Smith** over spring break, as the group walked to raise money for the Salvation Army and a summer mission trip.
- **Memorial Presbyterian, Atkins** is conducting fundraisers to finance the construction of a bell tower in memory of their long-time stated supply pastor, Rev. David B. Davies who died in December.
- **Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** recently published a list of memorial opportunities including sidewalk bricks, landscaping, a wheelchair accessible van, and new music for the choir.
- **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** has set their annual flea market of household items on April 16 to benefit missions and their scholarship fund.
- **Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** will have their annual silent and live auction to benefit missions on April 30.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** is planning their 50th birthday celebration on May 1 with Rev. Don Campbell giving the sermon and the choir and guests from the Hendrix College Choir providing music.
- **Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** has a prayer email list that is notified when prayers are requested.
- **First, Harrison** hosts square dancing lessons on Sunday afternoons and updates the congregation regularly on college students who are members.
- **First, Hot Springs** Mission Committee sold "hugs coupons" to benefit the local humane society.

- **First, Huntsville** youth reenacted the Last Supper on Youth Sunday March 13.
- **First, Van Buren** held a Mardi Gras party on March 6 complete with costumes, gumbo and King cake.

Graham Memorial Expanding Ministry



Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City's Community Soup Kitchen served 220 meals on Monday, March 28 to the hungry people of the community and is expanding their ministry to include health and social services on the premises. Northeast Arkansas HomeCare has committed to providing regular blood pressure checks for diners, and other medical and lifestyle assistance services are expected from local and county agencies.

Annual Retreat for Ministers, Educators and Commissioned Lay Pastors

Sunday, May 8, 4:00 p.m. through Noon, Tuesday, May 10, 2011
 Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center
Registration Deadline is April 29

"Theological and Practical Application of Systems Theory for Church Leaders"

[Download Registration Form Here](#)



Dr. David Lee Jones
 Faculty Member and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program,
 Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Dr. Jones is a Presbyterian minister, with an M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Th.D. degree in Pastoral Counseling from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to this teaching and administrative duties at Austin Seminary, he also serves as an Associate Faculty member at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. He is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

(Sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Care & Nurture of Church Professionals.)

But Why?

by [Rev. Dr. Don Wardlaw](#)

In the adjacent article you, whether minister, educator, or commissioned lay pastor, are urged to attend Presbytery's annual conference for church professionals, from Sunday afternoon, May 8th to Tuesday noon, May 10. But why bother? Why spend the time and effort to join your partners in ministry at Ferncliff for a couple of days?



For one, you come to be fed intellectually. Our guest leader, Dr. David Jones of the faculty at Austin Seminary, will be introducing you to the implications of systems theory for church leaders. While you may have heard of systems theory, you may well find yourself wishing to see its relevance for congregational life. David Jones will be offering possibilities for how systems theory can help you more clearly assess your people's needs, as well as guide your folk in developing creative strategies for meeting those needs.

Still, apart from Jones' edifying expertise, why should you bother? Why trouble yourself, especially amid your normal post-Easter let-down, to pack your bags, re-start your extroverting self, and drive to Ferncliff for this two-day gathering? What's more, you may find yourself even now searching for the energy simply to make it through the Easter season with all its built-in stresses, having to bring off one more trek to Golgotha, one more celebration before the empty tomb. You may be muttering to yourself, "for all the highs of this Easter celebration.....packed pews, lilies, music.....I wonder what will be left of me by Easter-noon, much less by the time of the church professionals' retreat."

And then, at this daunting thought, a strange fantasy pops into mind.....

"It's about an hour after dawn the first Easter. Jesus is over at the far end of the Garden, his back to you. He hasn't seen you come into the Garden. You're so tired that you don't even want to talk with him. You just want to crawl into that tomb, have the stone rolled back into place behind you, and collapse into the spot where Jesus lay. You put your head down in that same indentation by his grave clothes. You lapse into blessed sleep, a long, restorative slumber. Finally you are awakened by the ground rumbling beneath you. You would later be told that the quake was Pentecost. And the big stone again was rolled away. You rise, a bit fearful, but marvelously refreshed. As if filled with a new energy, a new sense of self. You step gingerly from the tomb. You can feel it in your bones. It's a new day."

The fantasy fades. A new awareness comes to you. Each Easter you've always reverently stood outside the empty tomb. Always outside, looking in. But today, you're inside the tomb, looking out. You might say, a totally new outlook. And a new energy, resurrection energy. Yes, you'll greet this Easter with a new vitality. You might even find yourself energized enough to come on to Ferncliff for yet more energy and inspiration two weeks later.

Small Church Retreat Draws 39



Thirty-nine people from 20 churches, including two from Pines Presbytery, attended the March 3-5 Small Church Retreat "Awake! Arise! A Presbyterian Revival" at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center. The event was sponsored by Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Care & Development.



See you at the Big Tent in Indianapolis, June 30 through July 2 where nine partner conferences will be meeting under one roof, all at one time and we will all worship together.

Choose from Clergy Women's Leadership Institute, Evangelism and Church Development Conference, Healthy Ministry Conference, National Elders Conference, National Multicultural Church Conference, Peacemaking Conference, Presbyterian Communicators Network National Conference, Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, World Mission

Conference ... or don't choose any one conference and design your own schedule. (Contact Stated Clerk Cathy Ulrich at 479.461.4042 regarding joint transportation.)

Registration fee: \$285 / Hotel rate: \$99 per night (J.W. Marriott)

Information and registration are available [here](#).

Confirmation Camp Hosts 10 Congregations

by [Abby Cain](#), Program Director, Ferncliff



Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center hosted Confirmation Camp February 25-27. There were confirmands from the Presbytery of Arkansas (Benton, First; Bentonville, First; Fort Smith, First; Little Rock, Grace Presbyterian; Little Rock, Trinity Presbyterian; Mountainburg Presbyterian; Pea Ridge, Mount Vernon Presbyterian; and Rogers, First) and the Presbytery of the Pines (Camden, First; Texarkana, First). A special thanks to Revs. Susan Gray, Erin Kaye, Andy King, Steve Merrin, Dari Rowen and Shauna Silmon for leading the group sessions. We

had six college-aged students lead small groups: Jordan Akin, Amanda Elmore, Christian Huisman, Hannah Lahodny, Katherine Norwood, and Payton Scharbor. The weekend produced many great church buildings, mission statements, outreach projects, and orders of worship. Thank you to Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture for helping to make this retreat happen!

Youth Ministry

by [Whitney Bordelon](#), Staff Resource to Youth Council

Senior High YouthQuake was an exciting event that proved to be more than a little bit foolish! Our theme, "Fool for Christ," fit the April Fool's weekend perfectly -- and the youth, college students, and adults embraced their inner foolish side with enthusiasm! The event planned by the Youth Council's SHYQ planning team was led by the ACTivators of Austin College. We would like to thank those who provided leadership for this excellent event: Keynote -- Rev. John Williams, Music



& Recreation -- ACTivators, Chaplain -- Rev. Dari Rowen, College Liaison -- Rev. Susan Rose, Leader Corps Coordinator -- David Mills, Youth Council Co-Moderators -- Rev. Leslie Roper & Terran Jones, Director -- Whitney Bordelon.





Would you like to host Middle School Mission 2012? Youth Council plans a mission weekend for Middle School students grades 6-8 each January, and we are looking for some new mission opportunities around the Presbytery! If you would be willing to host the youth (allow them to sleep in your church and possibly share a meal) and can provide some guidance about

mission opportunities in your area, please contact Whitney Bordelon at whitneysingleton@hotmail.com. We are looking for the chance to connect with your church and a way to introduce youth to mission in our Presbytery!

Wiggins and Branch Attend Ladies Society Meeting

by [Liz Branch](#)

How do women in the Presbyteries of Lacandon, Chiapas, Mexico and the Presbytery of Arkansas maintain a relationship when they live in different cultures, about 1500 miles apart?



Susie Carter Wiggins and
Pablo Feliciano-Cruz,
missionary

For Susie Carter Wiggins, Arkansas Presbytery Minister of Word and Sacrament candidate/student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Liz Branch, Westover Hills elder, it was a matter of traveling 1500 miles to meet with the Ladies Society of the Presbytery of Lacandon (PoL) in Plan de Ayutla, Chiapas, March 11-13.

Approximately 50 women representing six of the 13 Lacandon societies also attended the meeting. The ladies from Chiapas seem to value their association with us Arkansans and discussed how we could grow in mutual support. They asked us to exchange prayer requests and weekly devotionals with them. As a sign of their commitment, the Lacandon ladies submitted prayer requests from each local society, for us to bring back to Arkansas.

As for weekly devotionals, the ladies hesitated: they apparently had not written devotionals before. We suggested that we send three months' worth at first to give them models for writing and that we then alternate months.

In addition, the Lacandon women asked for Susie or another woman from Arkansas Presbytery to return in August and again in 2012 to be their guest preacher.

Susie was invited by the Ladies Society to preach for this recent meeting; she did that twice. Her second sermon, from the Book of Esther, focused on God's call "for such a time as this." Surely our presence in Plan de Ayutla, a tiny jungle village in the south of Chiapas, was for such a time as this.

The Ladies' Society began in the Presbytery of Lacandon in 2005 at the suggestion of Norma Taylor, then of Bull Shoals Presbyterian. Her husband Fred, then our liaison to the Presbytery of Lacandon, pushed to get the societies started. Five years into their work as ladies' societies in individual churches and in the presbytery, the Lacandon women still experience strong resistance from the all-male cadre of ministers and elders.

We solicit several things from you: prayer support for the Lacandon women and for our relationship, help with writing devotionals for exchange, and willingness to travel or to support travel to Chiapas. Whether you stay here or go there, your support matters. For more information, please contact Liz Branch at 501.944.9743 or erbranch@comcast.net

Lacandon Mission Trip Hard Work with Great Rewards

by [Will Branch](#)

A group from the Presbytery of Arkansas traveled to Chiapas, Mexico March 19-26 to continue the relationship with the Presbytery of Lacandon, and to work on the Presbytery camp in Santo Domingo.

They spent a wonderful week working, sharing stories, worshipping with the local community, building relationships, eating together, bathing in the river, sleeping in hammocks, and experiencing the sights and sounds of rural Chiapas.

From Monday to Wednesday they worked at the camp, helping to prepare and pour a floor for the second floor of a dormitory, tying rebar, shoveling sand and gravel and removing debris, picking up trash, hauling water, mixing and shoveling cement, and carrying buckets of cement to be poured.

On Monday and Tuesday they held vacation bible school for the local children, leading them in songs and games, telling Bible stories, and making crafts.

Local churches opened their doors, worshipping with the group and sharing a meal. They attended worship in the communities of Santo Domingo, Lacanja, and Cristobal Colon. Bill Branch, Leslie Belden, Debbie Freeman, and Healy Ikerd delivered sermons, which were then translated into Tzeltal. They also discovered the advantage of being away from city lights, as the stars of the Milky Way were spread out above as they returned from worship.



This Spring trip's participants were (from top left to bottom right): Heather Kilpatrick, Roger Haak, William Freeman, Debbie Freeman, Lindsay Freeman, Healey Ikerd, Liz Branch, Ted Belden, Leslie Belden, Bill Branch, and Will Branch (not pictured).

They returned safely to Little Rock on Saturday afternoon, tired, and happy to be back home, but full of the Spirit, and changed by what they had seen and accomplished.

The Presbytery of Lacandon has requested that the Presbytery send another group to Santo Domingo in late July to assist with the second phase of the project completed last week. The Presbytery is looking for a total of 12 new and experienced participants. Experienced Chiapas mission volunteers are needed to lead this group.

We want you to be involved! Do you have questions? We would be happy to give a presentation to your church, cluster, or group.

If you have any information about possible funding, would like us to come talk to you about the Presbytery's mission in Chiapas, or are interested in participating in this summer's trip, please contact Will Branch (wbranch@mac.com), Debbie Freeman (deblc63@gmail.com) or Bill Branch (wwbranch@comcast.net).

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

Disaster Preparation & Recovery

by [Brian Perry](#), Communications Director



What should your church do to prepare for a weather emergency event?

The most important item in the event of an emergency is information. Have a weather radio on at all times.

Designate a safe area to congregate in. The room should have no windows and a door that opens inward. The room should contain a weather radio, a radio and/or digital TV (when the weather radio alerts you, tune into radio or television to follow the storm), flashlights, batteries, first aid kit, emergency blanket (in case of shock), tools, drop cloths, and duct tape.

To retreat to the safe area:

- Lock external doors.
- Each person should bring food, water & medication with them.
- All should remain in the room until the weather emergency has ended. If the church is damaged it may take rescuers time to get you out of the safe area.

How to prepare if the church is severely damaged or destroyed?

Physical and electronic files should be backed up with copies kept off site:

- Each employee who uses a computer should be given a thumb drive so that they can backup critical documents and take them off-site daily.
- An external hard disk drive can be used to backup an entire PC or a file server on a weekly basis, and should be taken off-site daily.
- Office procedures should include a method to reconstruct data since the last backup.
- Paper files should be scanned and saved to an external hard disk drive, and copied onto DVDs. Keep two copies on-site and one off-site.
- A fixed asset inventory should be kept on-site and off-site for insurance claims.
- You may want to consider backing up your computers to remote servers using online services such as SOS Online, Norton, iDrive, Carbonite, or Mozy.

Have a recovery plan:

- Staff should have contact information for each other, including places where each would go in case of an emergency. The pastor or designated staff would check on status and availability of others to return to work.
- A temporary home should be found for the church office.
- Insurance companies would be notified of the loss, as would companies from which equipment was leased (copier, postage meter, telephone system, etc.).
- Contact your bank(s) for new checks.
- Determine how equipment will be replaced for the short term: use personal equipment, lease or buy.
- Setup software and restore data.
- Setup email access and an Internet-based fax number.
- Contact the telephone company to have incoming calls forwarded to cell phones.
- If required, setup voice mail through a telephone service vendor that would guide callers through a menu to reach the correct person's cell phone.

While there is no fool-proof plan for surviving a disaster, preparation can address many of the related problems. A comprehensive guide can be found [here](#).

Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget



by

[Pauline Rhodes](#)

March Revenue	\$55,931.47	Year-to-date Revenue	\$130,234.60
March Expenses	\$78,984.37	Year-to-date Expenses	\$199,696.36
March Deficit	-\$23,052.90	Year-to-date Net	-\$ 69,461.76



Stewardship Corner

by [Rev. Breck Castleman](#)

Hydrangeas are interesting plants. The color of their flowers is based on how acidic or alkaline the soil is. Acidic soil causes the blossoms to be blue in color. Aluminum in the soil also contributes to blueness in the flower. The more alkaline the soil, the more the blossom will tend toward pink. Low aluminum in the soil also contributes to the redness of the flower. By adjusting the chemical "culture" of the soil, the gardener can determine the color of the hydrangea blossom.

Stewardship, the act of living and giving for the Lord's sake and for the sake of others, is determined by the biblical and theological "culture" of a congregation and its individual members. Stewardship is the "color" or life-style of Christians whose lives are rooted in an understanding and experience of grace - the undeserved favor and generosity of a merciful God. The Apostle Paul wrote: "You know the grace [generous act' - NRSV] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). The gracious character of God is what stimulates the generous giving of God to enrich us with forgiveness and the fullness of life.

In the same way the more our congregations are infused with an experience of grace, the more the "color" of stewardship will be evident in that congregation. As we cultivate the "soil" of grace among our members through preaching the grace of God in Christ and through encouraging gracious living within the congregation, then the life-style of generosity will blossom beautifully and will provide the resources for carrying out God's mission in the world.

Save the Date

First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville will host Dr. Brian K. Blount

on Saturday, May 14, at 1:00 p.m.

for a presentation on the book of Revelation

Dr. Blount is a noted New Testament scholar and President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. His commentary, [Revelation](#), was chosen "top reference book of 2009" by the Academy of Parish Clergy and his book, [Can I Get a Witness?: Reading Revelation Through African American Eyes](#), is one of the sources cited in this year's Presbyterian Women's study of Revelation. Dr. Blount will be preaching at First United on Sunday, May 15 at 8:30 am, with Communion, and at 11:00 a.m.

Opportunities

Summer Intern for Youth Ministry

Second Presbyterian, Little Rock seeks two interns. [Details here.](#)

First, Fort Smith seeks Preschool & Kindergarten Director

Do you love Children and a Christian environment? Long established Preschool and Kindergarten at First, Fort Smith is seeking a Director who is a creative, energetic individual with Early Childhood Education training and Preschool management experience. Compensation based on qualifications and experience. Send resumes to: First Presbyterian Church, Attn: Linda HPS&K, 116 N. 12th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901, linda@1pres.org or call 479-783-8919.

Need Someone to Talk To?

Don't forget that Presbytery of Arkansas members (Active Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Lay Pastors and Certified Christian Educators) and their families are entitled to six free therapy sessions per year (July 1 - June 30). The Clergy Counseling Network is a group of therapists throughout Arkansas who have contracted with the Laurence Schmidt Center in Little Rock to provide sessions to those requesting counseling. If you have any questions about this service, please contact Rev. Rebecca Spooner at the Laurence Schmidt Center, 501.664.7777 or on the web at rebeccaspooner@veralloyd.org.

Kirk in the Pines - 11 Days: Highlights of Italy

Hosted by Rev. Don Trent, Accompanied by Rev. Bill Bailey
November 2-12

\$3199.00 per person includes round-trip airfare from Dallas, hotels, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing and more. Sites include Venice, Pisa, Florence, Sorrento, Pompeii & Rome with Vatican City. Contact Rev. Trent at 501.915.2097 or email shalom2u@suddenlink.net

Responding to the Japan Earthquake & Tsunami [here](#)

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly Seeks Small Group Leaders

Mo-Ranch (Hunt, Texas) needs between 65 and 75 small group leaders (SGL) for various youth conferences. Their responsibilities include leading a group of approximately 15 youth and adults during the conference. They are reimbursed for travel expenses (in accordance with the conference center's travel policy) and receive on-site lodging and meals. SGLs should be at least 3 years older than the youth participants in the conference. More jobs are listed [here](#). Learn more about our [youth conferences](#) to find the best fit for you! [Apply here](#).

POAMN-ARMSS Joint Conference

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network and the Association of Retired Ministers, their Spouses and Survivors will hold a joint conference in San Antonio, Texas, October 11-14. See more information [here](#).

Mo-Ranch/PAM Worship & Music Conference

Mo-Ranch and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians are hosting a Worship & Music Conference in June. Find more information [here](#).

Cokesbury Bookstore

Cokesbury is seeking a Key Account Manager for the Little Rock bookstore. [Details here](#).

Presbyterian Women News

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

The Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering will be held at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith on Saturday, April 16th. The theme is "I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Chris McRae, Program Director of Solar Under the Sun and Co-Coordinator for the Haiti Network Living Waters of the World project, is the keynote speaker. Reverend Leslie Bethell Roper, associate pastor at First, Batesville and moderator of Presbytery's Youth Council, will lead worship.

Attendees are encouraged to bring items for the Community Clearing House, which is responsible for the Meals for Kids program. The program provides take-home food each Friday for 2,480 public school

students in the Fort Smith area. Donations must be INDIVIDUAL servings of cereal, juice boxes, Slim Jims, pudding cups, fruit cups, cheese and crackers, breakfast bars, pop tarts, Vienna sausages, animal crackers, Beanie Weenies, Rice Krispy Treats, Jello cups, or raisins.

Mission outreach from the clusters will be displayed. Please send photos and other items highlighting your local PW's mission outreach to your cluster leader as soon as possible.

Download the poster for Spring Gathering [here](#).

\$6.50 Reservations are due TODAY. Email list of names and church to Cissy Rose roseciscar@aol.com

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

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo

What? Next Cursillo Retreat

When? October 19-23

Where? Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

What is Cursillo? Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action.

Who are the leaders? The staff is lay led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-Day Weekend.

What will we do? Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussions and great food.

How do I apply? 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.)

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.



Rave Reviews from Resource Center patrons:

- Sue Rennie, Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock appreciates "**New Testament Stories from the Backside**" by **J. Ellsworth Kalas** (Acc. #BK8837) which their Sunday School class has been studying and is donating in multiple copies so that another small group can study through Park Hill's generosity. She also says that the readings make excellent daily devotionals.
- Clerk of Session Chuck Blanton, Wynne Presbyterian, writes "Very seldom in one's life do you read a book which completely changes not only your attitudes, but your actions as well. '**Enough**' by **Adam Hamilton** will cause you to look at "things" in a whole new light and may just bring you closer to our Risen Lord." (Resource Center has both the DVD and the book, Acc. #DVD9184.)
- Commissioned Lay Pastor Roger Shields, First, Pocahontas salutes "**To Be a Presbyterian**" (2010 revised edition) by **Louis B. Weeks** (Acc. #BK9342) as an officer training resource and an excellent and accessible primer on the life, history, tradition and beliefs of the Presbyterians.
- Rev. Shauna Silmon, Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock enthusiastically visits the website www.storypath.wordpress.com for children's books recommended to coordinate with the lectionary passages each Sunday.
- Rev. Stewart Smith, First, Springdale recommends the new book "**What's the Least I can Believe and Still be a Christian? A guide to what matters most**" which they're using for a Lenten study.

Summer Sunday Solutions for Children's Study Times

Unpredictable attendance and short attention spans create challenges in June and July. Here are suggestions from Retired Christian Educator Linda LeBron of Little Rock:

- **We Believe-Awesome Adventures** set of 13 sessions for multiage (kindergarten through grade 5). This year's set (available for loan from the Resource Center) is **God's People on Mountains and Seas**, featuring Old and New Testament encounters with God on the mountains and the waters: Noah on the ark, Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, getting tossed on the boat with the disciples as Jesus calms the storm, Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop with Peter and John and more.
- Feature church members with interesting careers, travels, volunteer work or hobbies. Ask them to tell their story and their favorite Bible story and do an activity around it in a casual intergenerational assembly, maybe over breakfast.
- Tweak old Vacation Bible School themes. YOUR Resource Center has numerous "used" kits that you may have for the asking. You might add stories that fit the theme or do a theme each month.
- Parents could join in broadly graded options from Active Learning Associates (www.alassociates.com) and the Resource Center has these on hand "**Disciples Then! Disciples Now**" (13 disciples, one each week) and "**Hymn Stories**" with 26 hymn stories or "**Twenty Prayer Lessons for Children**".

LAST MINUTE HELPS FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

To sandwich in around the palm processional rehearsal, Easter Egg Hunt or the Pancake breakfast or even in anticipation of "Low Sunday" on May 1 at church, contact us or check the [online catalog](#) for ideas for all age groups.

(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Presbytery & Financial Administrator [PAULINE RHODES](#)

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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 almost 15,000 Presbyterians gathered in 88 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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