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August 2009

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



## Together in God's Grace

by Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson

"My heart I offer you, God, freely and sincerely." - John Calvin

I thought of John Calvin while I was writing my Christian Education Certification exam. Not only because Calvin was committed to the value of education in the church, but also because of the Biblical Interpretation section of the exam. I studied the passage Jeremiah 31:31-34 which includes the words, "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another."

What? No more teaching! How can that be? John Calvin presented his heart to be written on by God. God told us through Jeremiah that there will be a time when we will know God in our hearts and we hope for that time and that knowing.

We live in a time when we can get glimpses of knowing God. It is my great joy to share in those times as I worship with churches around the presbytery. I saw the *heart knowing* prayer of the people gathered as the body of Christ when I visited Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville. They saw the *heart knowing* of the steadfast connection as the body of Christ as I visited Alpine Presbyterian, Amity. I saw the *heart knowing* inclusion into the body of Christ of a child of God as my new grandson was welcomed at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock. My heart is warmed in the midst of this *God knowing*.

Joan



## Festa Installed as Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff Pastor



An Administrative Commission of the presbytery installed Rev. Dan Festa as pastor on Sunday, July 12. They are Rev. Bill Branch, Elder Lawrence Fikes, Elder Ed McCorkle, Elder Linda Bullard, Rev. Sallie Watson, Rev. Festa, Commissioned Lay Pastor Claire Rhodes (moderator), Elder Julie Adkisson, and Rev. Bill Galbraith.



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## A Polity Point

by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk



### Duty to Report

The picture hangs in homes and churches across the country: beaming children gathered around a seated Jesus. His words, 'For such is the kingdom of heaven' are equally familiar. The picture and the words remind us of God's intention that we protect and nurture children.

In 2004 our denomination made it the responsibility of all ordained officers (elders, deacons, and ministers of word and sacrament) to report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity. [G-6.0204b; G-6.0304b; G-6.0401b]

In Arkansas, clergy are "mandated reporters." This means that clergy are required by law to report the neglect or abuse of a child. Our denomination took the bold step of including all officers in the circle of those who care for and act on behalf of not only children, but also those who are not able to defend themselves.

This courageous action also gives rise to some questions:

- Who are the "ecclesiastical and legal authorities" to whom this knowledge is to be reported?
- How does an officer of the church report this knowledge?
- What are the situations that need reporting?
- What prompted the church to take this action?

It is admirable for our constitution to define this responsibility for its officers. But it does not answer any of the questions above.

When our Book of Order does not answer these questions, it ordinarily falls to the governing body to make adjustments to its Bylaws or Manual of Operations. Each session, presbytery, and synod needs time to talk about the proper authorities to whom these reports need to be made, what process this will take, and how this information will be handled.

It is fortunate that we are in this together. The difficulty of these situations often leads to silence. There is a tendency to ignore this subject and therefore abuse and neglect are allowed to continue. In order to help us better understand our "duty to report," some of these questions will be addressed this October 8th in a Pre-presbytery Workshop led by Rev. Rebecca Spooner, Director of the Laurence Schmidt Center and Stated Clerk Rev. Cathy Ulrich at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs.

Let us work together for the care and nurture of all God's people.

Blessings and peace, [Cathy](#)

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**112th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas  
Thursday-Friday, October 8-9 -- Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs**

Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday

Concurrent pre-presbytery workshops (choose one), Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m.:

- 1) "Pastor Search and Call Process" presented by the Committee on Ministry, Rev. Leslie Belden. (Designed to be informative for those serving on active Pastor Nominating Committees, for members of churches anticipating a change in pastoral leadership or anyone who is curious about the Presbyterian Call Process)
- 2) "Creating Safe Spaces: Church Officers as Mandated Reporters" presented by the Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center and the Office of the Stated Clerk, Rev. Rebecca Spooner and Rev. Cathy Ulrich. (Arkansas law prescribes that pastors are mandated reporters of physical, sexual or other types of abuse to minors or other vulnerable persons and the Presbyterian constitution extends this responsibility to elders and deacons. Workshop will walk people through the process of reporting.)
- 3) "What NOT to Teach: Choosing Resources for Ministry" presented by Presbytery Resourcing Director NiAnn Thompson. (Bombarded with choices in educational resources to use in the church from the local Christian bookstore to the Internet to members' favorite authors to our own denomination's offerings, we need criteria in choosing how to reach our students. We'll look at theological and educational assumptions of the resource and the ones using the resource so that our teaching will "fit" and reach the learner. This workshop is for all of us who determine what will be taught in the congregation and how.)

Dinner on your own; Gavel at 6:30; Theme: "My grace is sufficient for you" Second Corinthians 12:9; Worship with communion at 7:30.

Friday schedule resumes at 8:30 a.m. and continues through lunch hosted by the congregation and afternoon business.

Expected highlights: Reports from Committees on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response; Synod Commissioners; exam for ordination of a candidate for ministry; welcome new ministers.

Meeting packet expected to be posted on the presbytery web site on September 17.

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## PEOPLE AND CHURCH NEWS

### NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- **Rev. Susan Gray's** daughter, Lisa Webb, begins a year of service with PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program effective Sept. 1. She'll be working with Project Homecoming in New Orleans. Rev. Gray is pastor of Mountainburg Presbyterian and moderator of Presbytery's Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals.
- **Rev. Drew Travis** was the keynote speaker at the Synod Youth Workshop July 13-18 at the University of Tulsa. Rev. Travis is pastor of First, Conway.
- Congratulations to **Rev. David and Vicki Gill** on the birth of two grandchildren, grandson David Oren Gill on June 10th and granddaughter Marjorie Ellen Gill on July 14. Proud parents of David Oren are Andy and Mandy Gill and parents of Marjorie Ellen are Joel and Ashley Gill. David is the Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center and Joel is the Director of the Environmental Education program at the Arkansas 4-H Center.
- Congratulations to **Betty Anderson** on her election as secretary of the Central Arkansas American Guild of Organists. She is church musician at First, Jacksonville and Cluster VIII representative to the Committee on Clusters.
- Christian sympathy is extended to **Rev. Paul and Marie Andresen** on the death of Paul's mother, Mary Margaret Andresen, on July 28th. Services were held in Mexico, Missouri. Rev. Andresen is pastor of First, Berryville.
- **Rev. Norwood "Woody" Brown** of Fayetteville has accepted the call as pastor of Rolling Hills

Presbyterian in Overland Park, Kansas. He was serving in two validated ministry positions and was a member of Presbytery's General Council.

- **Jonathan Merritt** is the new organist and choir director at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock.
- **Brad Edwards** is the new Minister of Youth and Christian Discipleship at First, Siloam Springs.
- Christian sympathy is extended to **Rev. Catherine Allsbury and her husband Rev. Jim Miller** of Little Rock on the death of Catherine's mother, Jeanette Allsbury, on August 10th. A memorial service will be held at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock on Thursday, August 13th at 10:00 a.m.. Rev. Allsbury is moderator of Presbytery's Committee on Representation and Rev. Miller is a member of Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

### **NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES**

- **First, Fort Smith** has held two "talk-it-over" sessions regarding the frequency, timing and style of their worship schedule.
- **First, Rogers** deacons coordinate the church's "1st Impressionists" activities in the narthex with an information display on the west side and a "coffee house" on the east side.
- **First, Arkadelphia** voted to reestablish the office of deacon and commissioned five people to assist the minister in pastoral care of members.
- **Presbyterian Women of First, Malvern** held an indoor yard sale in July and plans a barbeque dinner in August and a frozen casserole sale in the fall to benefit missions.
- **First, Dardanelle** is offering church-grants up to 50% of the cost of the presbytery-wide mission trip for their members who participate.
- **First, Mountain Home** cooked and served dinner for the volunteers at the local Christian Clinic.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** will host an "All Church Back to School Brunch" on Saturday, August 29. Brunch will be provided, but members are asked to bring school supplies which will be distributed to students in need in local schools.
- **First, Benton** members will attend a performance of "My Fair Lady" at Murray's Dinner Theater in Little Rock on August 12.
- **First, Jacksonville** publishes the weekly worship attendance and offering amount in their monthly newsletter.
- **First, Newport** celebrated Pentecost with a fellowship meal after worship and published color photos of the event in their newsletter.
- **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** will take up a special offering on Higher Education Sunday, August 16, to divide between the two Presbyterian-related colleges in Arkansas - Lyon College in Batesville and the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville.
- **Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** publishes a brief monthly article about some aspect of the PC(USA) in their newsletter.
- **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** offers transportation to members for doctor appointments, grocery shopping and church events.
- **First, Pine Bluff** was led in worship on August 9 by their youth who recently went on a mission trip to Jamaica.
- **First, Heber Springs** began a Home Bible Study Group on July 30 to discuss a selected text and the sermon of interim pastor Rev. Dennis Bennett on that text.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** will participate in the 5th Sunday Community Hymn Sing on the evening of August 30.
- **University of the Ozarks, Clarksville** has been named to the Honor Roll of "Great Colleges to Work For" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- **First, Lonoke** members enjoyed a baseball outing to a Travelers game on August 9.
- **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** has been approved by the Red Cross as an emergency shelter in case of a natural disaster.
- **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** has a phone line and e-mail address devoted to Cares and Joys of the congregation.
- **First, Morrilton** is planning their biannual "Talents for the Lord" fundraiser which features a silent auction of products and services offered by congregation members to the community.
- **First, Hot Springs** hosted a reception on August 5 for the incoming juniors at the Arkansas School for Math, Science and the Arts, which is across the street from the church.
- **Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** has scheduled a Healing and Wholeness Service monthly in the new chapel when it is completed and dedicated.

### **NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS**

- Christian sympathy is extended to the family of **Rev. T. Stratton Daniel, Jr.** of Memphis who died on July 15. Rev. Daniel was a former member of the Presbytery of Arkansas and served as pastor of First, Morrilton. A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 18 at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church in Memphis.
- **Rev. Howard "Flash" Gordon and wife Roberta Saxon** are serving 14 months at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland. Rev. Gordon will be serving as American Assistant.

### **NEWS OF OUR CLUSTERS**

- **Cluster I** (northwest Arkansas) has set their election of representatives to General Council and Committee on Clusters for Thursday, August 27, at First, Springdale.
- **Cluster III** (northeast Arkansas) recently elected Elder Alan Mayenschein, Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy, as their representative on the Committee on Clusters. Rev. Patty Schaller, at-large minister, of Horseshoe Bend was elected cluster representative on General Council. Both will serve in the Class of 2012.

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## **Idea of the Month**

**First, Little Rock** has formed a green team to assess ways to reduce energy use in the building through thermostat settings, checking windows, lights and air returns.

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### **First, Clarksville forms Safety Task Force**

by [Brian Perry](#)

The session of First, Clarksville created a Safety Task Force this spring after Pastor Marci Ward shared articles on church violence sent by Presbytery to pastors in March.

The session realized that although the articles concentrated on violence within the church, the larger issue of safety in all circumstances needed to be addressed.

Dennis Lovig, a retired state trooper from Iowa, is a member of the Safety Task Force and explained that "we are working our way through this plan, but a broader plan that encompasses other emergencies is needed. We've identified these areas as fire, tornado and law enforcement."



In the more likely case of fire or tornadoes the Task Force developed a fire notification and escape plan for Sundays and weekdays. The Sunday plan includes alerting the different groups that are in the building (sanctuary, children's church, nursery, etc.) and providing escape routes for each of them. The weekday plan covers meeting spaces within the church.

Some of the problems encountered were the elevator that is used by several members of the congregation with mobility issues, the limited number of exits in use, and the large number of spaces available. The plan incorporates a means to notify and evacuate all groups, to provide more exits and instructions on which groups will use them. This fall the church will engage in a fire drill during services, as well as additional drills during the week when different groups are meeting in the church.

What if a tornado comes? The emergency siren can clearly be heard and the Task Force has determined the routes to the basement and where in the basement each group of people (including children and

elderly persons) is to be housed. This plan will be tested in the spring.

The local police department was contacted to help in designing a law enforcement response. The police mapped the building (an older, three-story structure with many rooms), gave the task force substantive ideas, and created an emergency plan for response. This fall the police will hold a training exercise in the church that will provide additional information on how to properly respond to such an emergency.

The Task Force knows that the plan will need to be continually fine-tuned as the congregation and the building change and will annually test the plan with fire and tornado response drills. An emergency plan is always a work in progress.

## Presbyterian Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay Dedicates New Fellowship Hall



Presbyterian Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay dedicated their new Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 2. Rev. Dr. Robert Hadley, pastor, reports that the family of Stan and Charlotte Herren, who provided a generous trust to the Kirk, attended. Also present were Interim General Presbyter Sallie, Paul, Alex and Meredith Watson, as

well as former Executive Presbyter Bill and Joy Henning. A ribbon-cutting was held after worship (complete with pipers), followed by lunch and a program. The Hall has a modern kitchen, video and audio equipment, and a backup generator that will enable its use as a shelter facility in the event of emergencies.



*Pictured are the Herren family, charter member Vernie Holdman, Rev. Robert Hadley, Rev. Bill Henning, and Rev. Sallie Watson.*

## Youth Travel to Montreat



Presbytery of Arkansas youth spent a week at the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina. They experienced great fellowship, a beautiful setting, and lots of fun. At the same time, they were being challenged to see God at work in the world, they were being equipped to



participate in the body of Christ, they were encouraged to find their voice and be *ON FIRE* connecting their faith and life.

The annual trip to Montreat is sponsored by Presbytery's Youth Council under the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.

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## Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

by [Mary Beth Lysobey](#), Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of Arkansas

It was great to see so many Arkansas Presbyterian Women at Churchwide. A special thanks to Kathy White, Cissy Rose, and Rev. Marci Ward for being our voting representatives. Kathy, Karene Jones, and I also attended the Synod of the Sun Coordinating Team meeting. We congratulate Karene, who is also on the Churchwide Coordinating Team that will plan for the 2012 meeting in Florida. I enjoyed seeing my Global Exchange friends from all across the USA and Eastern Europe. It was an inspiring experience for all who attended.

Ladies, please check last month's Banner for dates of your Fall Gatherings. The Cluster leaders have planned uplifting and informative programs for you.

To get the necessary forms for a successful year in Presbyterian Women, go to the Presbytery of Arkansas web site, [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org), and click on Ministries, then [Presbyterian Women](#), and scroll down to the list of forms. A technology person from each church can volunteer to aid any Presbyterian Women group that needs assistance and this person can print the needed forms and contact me for any information.

Spring Gathering will be April 24, 2010 at Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville. Keynote speaker will be Julia Thorne, a pastor and lawyer from Louisville, Kentucky and manager for immigration issues and immigration counsel. Julia spoke at Churchwide and is awesome. Put this date on your calendar.

I hope you all have ordered your "Horizons" lessons for the year. "God will do wonders among you" is the theme from the book of Joshua. Ladies, get involved and God will do wonders among you!

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## Global Exchange Gone Full Circle

by [Mary Beth Lysobey](#), Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman

In September, 2008 I spent three weeks in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Ukraine as a participant in the USA Presbyterian Women Global Exchange. In early July, 2009 some of the group's new European friends visited in homes across the United States and then all came together at the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, Kentucky.

I visited in the homes of three Ukrainians and initiated the process for their visit to the Synod of the Sun. Ibolya and Vinca Pochai are a husband and wife team who are the leaders of the Reformed Church in Ukraine, with Vinca being pastor of six churches in Carpath-Ukraine. Ethnically the people in Carpath-Ukraine are Hungarian and speak Hungarian. Vinca travels periodically throughout Ukraine to minister to other Reformed congregations. Ibolya is president of the Women's Association. This reformed Calvinist church shares roots with our Presbyterian faith and quickly resurfaced after the Communist Party fell in 1991.





*Pictured are Mary Beth Lysobey, Heifer Ranch volunteer Caby Byrne, Krisztina Orgovan, and Vinca and Ebolya Pochai.*

I met up with the Pochais and their 17-year-old translator, Krisztina Orgovan, in Texarkana and took them to Ferncliff to meet with David Gill, who gave them a tour of the camp and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Center which is the future site of Solar under the Sun Training, a new phase of Living Waters for the World. My vision is to get Living Waters into a Roma village in Carpath-Ukraine. The clean water of the Ouachita Mountains impressed them because all except the very poor drink bottled water in their village.

Their next stop was Perryville, where they toured the Heifer Project International Farm. The visitors are very hopeful of getting a Heifer Project going in the Roma, or gypsy, community in Beregszasz, their hometown. They visited downtown Hot Springs and ate at Pizza Hut before arriving at our home after dark, where they were astounded by the loud "music" of cicadas and the magic of lightning bugs. Even though they had spent a long time traveling by car, none would nap because as Ibolya said, "Arkansas is so beautiful. We don't want to miss seeing anything." The next day they took a boat ride and swam in Lake Ouachita and then waded in the Caddo River.

Barr Memorial members gave a tour of the Gretta Lane Mission, which provides food weekly to some 450 people. After a potluck meal provided by Presbyterian Women, the Pochais and Krisztina interacted with members and presented a hand-woven banner made by a Ukrainian church member.

Presbytery of Arkansas Presbyterian Women rejoined them and other global exchange visitors at the Churchwide Gathering. Knowing them personally makes their problems and joys become ours. God willing, we will meet again and I pray that the Presbytery of Arkansas and Presbyterian Women will be involved in future mission initiatives.

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## **PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS FUNDS IN ACTION**

Your Committee on Administration, over the next several months, will be providing a series of stories on how the Presbytery of Arkansas is using your annual benevolent giving. Our first story relates to how our Presbytery connects with our local churches and to other organizations in our denomination to help us when there is a disaster.

This story started on April 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. when many churches in our Presbytery were having Maundy Thursday services. Around 7:00 p.m. a tornado struck First Presbyterian, Mena, causing significant destruction to their roof and other areas of their church campus. By 8:30 p.m. that same night, your Presbytery Disaster Response team was already on the phone inquiring about the damage and assessing needs.

The next day, Good Friday, April 10, 2009, Emmett Powers and Sallie Watson (on behalf of the Presbytery) and Bill and Liz Branch (on behalf of General Assembly's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) traveled to Mena to assess the damage and to try to help determine how First, Mena would be able to

hold their Easter worship service, now only days away! Besides the obvious issues of damage to the church were the fact that there was no electricity in the area and widespread clean-up necessary inside the buildings.

By Saturday, thanks to our Presbytery, as well as Synod and General Assembly, a trailer arrived at First, Mena with a generator, extension cords, freestanding lights and other items. A process had also begun which would result in a grant from General Assembly of \$20,000.00 to help the church with key repairs and to help the community as well. While this money could not fix the roof by Easter Sunday, the amazing church members of First, Mena worked tirelessly through the weekend (day & night), so that they were able to hold a lovely Easter Service on Sunday in their Fellowship Hall.

Special thanks for all the Mena church member support, members of Presbytery of Arkansas Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, many other local people in the area, and to you for your donations to the Presbytery of Arkansas. What a glorious story on overcoming adversity through the connectionalism and relationships of our entire church family.

Praise the Lord!

### Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

July Revenue	\$64,273.06	Year-to-Date Actual as of July 31	
July Expenses	<u>\$81,409.80</u>	Revenue	\$364,475.32
July Deficit	<b>\$17,136.74</b> deficit	Expenses	<u>\$561,877.98</u>
		Deficit	<b>\$197,402.66</b> deficit



[Pauline Rhodes](#)

### IGP Itinerary

IGP Sallie Watson will be in the following settings between now and the next Banner publication:

- Aug 10-13 - Hosting Synod and Presbytery Executives at Ferncliff
- Aug 15 - Committee on Administration Budget Hearing, Presbytery Office
- Aug 18 - Committee on Nominations, Presbytery Office
- Aug 19 - Visiting Pocahontas, First
- Aug 22 - General Council, Second, Little Rock
- Aug 23 - Worship with Highland Presbyterian, Hot Springs
- Aug 29 - Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, First, Conway
- Aug 29 - Committee on Mission, First, Conway
- Aug 30 - Worship with First, Clarksville
- Aug 30 - Cluster VII Officer Training, Central Presbyterian, Russellville
- Sept 1 - Committee on Ministry, First, Conway
- Sept 2-3 - Vacation

### POAMN 25th Anniversary Conference

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) Conference is scheduled for September 29 - October 2 in Tucson, Arizona. General Assembly Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow will lead the worship at

POAMN's 25th Anniversary Conference. A registration form is available [here](#). For more information you can contact Cindy Wright at 858.509.2587 or by email at [wright@solanapres.org](mailto:wright@solanapres.org).

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### On Retiring from a Congregation

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is offering a seminar designed for pastors who are contemplating retiring in the next one to five years. It is sometimes difficult for pastors to think through all the tasks that need to be accomplished, and they are likely to overlook a number of ways to make the entire transition better both for the members of their congregation and themselves. The seminar is scheduled for September 30-October 1 and more information can be found [here](#).

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### Grants for Pastoral Leaders

The Louisville Institute announces their 16th annual competition for sabbatical grants for pastoral leaders. Last year 48 grants were awarded to applicants from a pool numbering nearly 400. Applications close on September 1. In addition, study grants to pastoral leaders are also available and close on September 15.

Details of the grant application process and eligibility requirements are available [here](#).

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### Critical Need for Help in Hurricane Ike Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance reports that although it is the third most destructive hurricane to hit the United States, Hurricane Ike has been named the forgotten storm. When Hurricane Ike devastated the Texas coast, all of the major media and press outlets were focused on two items: the 2008 presidential election and the downward spiral of the U.S. financial crisis beginning with the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and the sale of Merrill Lynch.

Less than \$500,000 was received to respond to the massive needs in Texas. [Give today](#) to help Hurricane Ike survivors recover. [Volunteer](#) for a work team and help survivors rebuild their homes. [Get information](#) on how to give and how to register your team. Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of the Hurricane Ike recovery efforts.

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### - FINAL CALL - 3rd Annual Presbytery-Wide Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast September 20-26, 2009

**When:** Leave on Sunday, September 20 and return Saturday, September 26

**Where:** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Volunteer Village at Port Neches, Texas near Beaumont

**Cost:** \$120 per person for room and board payable to "Westminster Presbyterian Church"

**Deadline for church to receive registration and payment:** Tuesday, September 1

**Organizational Meeting:** Sunday, August 30 at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 3819 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, 71913

Supporters who cannot participate may choose to donate to the Gulf Coast mission trip (make checks payable to "Presbytery of Arkansas" and mail to 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, 72227) and/or

donate gift cards from Lowe's for building supplies or share this information with others and pray for the missionaries and those needing help.

For more information: Contact Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335) for details.

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**- FINAL CALL -**  
**2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study**

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38  
\$9.00 each through the Presbytery Office (includes mailing cost to congregation). Payment must accompany order and the ordering deadline is Friday, August 14, 2009.

Mail your check made out to "Presbytery of Arkansas" with the number of books you want to:  
Presbytery of Arkansas  
9221 N. Rodney Parham Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227

Yearbook features 16-page color insert of Presbyterian Women mission work and will be available in November.

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**News from Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home**

Vera Lloyd's newly remodeled guesthouse in Monticello is finished and ready for company. It has been officially named The Davis Guesthouse in memory of Annie and Marlin Davis - Mom and Pop Davis - who raised their two children in the little frame house on campus. Mom Davis was the cook, and Pop Davis was the farm manager during the late 40's and 50's. Mom Davis died several years ago, and Pop Davis died last month at the age of 95.

The Davis Guesthouse will sleep 11 to 12. There are four sets of bunk beds, one single bed and two double-size futons. The house is furnished with sheets, towels, some toiletry items and, yes, a coffeepot.

First Presbyterian, Fort Smith is planning a kitchen shower next month to stock and equip the guesthouse kitchen.

Call Bonnie Hicks to reserve a stay in the guesthouse: 870-723-2269. Vera Lloyd Home cares for abused, abandoned and neglected young people.

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**Junior High YouthQuake Asks "Who Am I?"**

The Junior High YouthQuake which includes youth in grades 6-9 from throughout the presbytery is set for September 25-27 (Friday evening through worship Sunday) at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, just west of Little Rock.

The theme is taken from Exodus 3:14a. Keynote speaker is Rev. Drew Travis, First, Conway and chaplain is Rev. Kendal Land, First, Arkadelphia. Co-directors are Rev. Robert Lowry, First, Searcy and Rev. Leslie Roper, associate pastor, First, Batesville.

Packets to use to register by church will be mailed and e-mailed later this summer. Cost is \$85 before September 11 and \$95 before September 18 which is the last day to register.

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## Orientation Set for All Church Professionals New to the Presbytery

Please save the date of Thursday, October 29, for the annual Orientation of New Ministers, Educators and Commissioned Lay Pastors at the Presbytery office in Little Rock. That's your chance to learn all about the history, culture and business of the presbytery you now call home as well as share fellowship with other "newbies." If you came on the field since last fall or if you missed last year's event, this event will introduce you to the leaders, agencies and programs of the presbytery. Orientation is sponsored by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

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## Campus Ministry Page Added to the Web Site

The Campus Ministry subcommittee of Christian Education and Nurture has added a page to the [Presbytery web site](#) that lists information and links to the numerous points of campus ministry activity across the Presbytery.

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### 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.



For most of our churches, summer unofficially ends when school begins, even if children and youth are not part of the congregation. It's time to resume old standard programs and initiate new offerings. It's time for YOUR Resource Center to partner with you in ministry. Phone, email ([niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)) or visit our online catalog ([www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org), click on "Resources," then "Resource Center" to search our collection.)

Maybe these **Rave Reviews** pique your interest.

--Elder Marie Fikes of First, Malvern commented that of all the resources used to tell the children at Vacation Bible School the story of Moses, their favorite was the "**Veggie Tales: Moe and the Big Exit**" (Acc. #DVD8913). There's just something about animated, talking vegetables that livens up the story!

--My colleague Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson recommends two books that have been on the New York Times bestseller list, "**Three Cups of Tea**" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (Acc. #BK9214) and "**Three Cups of Tea, the Young Reader's Edition**" (Acc. #BK9215). Both are uplifting stories of a real-life Indiana Jones and his remarkable humanitarian campaign for literacy and peace in the Taliban's backyard.

--Rev. Burle Mattingly, Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman writes his thanks for the loan of the **23 "Nooma"** DVDs since his classes "enjoyed, appreciated and learned from them."

### New Denominational Web-Based Resource Supports Your Leaders and Builds New Ones

Soon it will be time for fall leadership training. Whether it's a study of doctrine and beliefs, leadership in all its variety, or planning worship and preaching, isn't it time to breathe new life into these essential and important activities?

YOUR Resource Center subscribed last month (\$99 for all site content) to a new online resource of the PC(USA) for pastors, elders, deacons, educators, worship leaders, musicians and other congregational leaders. Individual resources are also available for download for a per-item fee, designed by

Presbyterians for Presbyterians to support you in your leadership role. You are invited to visit [www.ThePresbyterianLeader.com](http://www.ThePresbyterianLeader.com) or you may take out on loan some of these interesting studies from YOUR Center.

This month we'll spotlight stewardship (single session studies with leader guides on "**How to Talk about Stewardship**" and "**Mission-Driven Budgeting**"), so necessary in these insecure financial times. The writers are well-known in the stewardship field: Rev. Jon Brown, Director for Mission Interpretation, which includes the churchwide special offerings and stewardship resources, and Certified Christian Educator Elaine Barnett, who co-authored "The Big Book of Presbyterian Stewardship."

And who couldn't use some new ideas for officer instruction? What about single sessions on "**Serving as Clerk of Session**," "**Serving as Deacon**," "**Serving as Trustee**" and three sessions on "**Serving as Elder**." Session writer Elaine Barnett is joined by fellow authors Earl S. Johnson, Jr., who wrote the classic "The Presbyterian Deacon" and "The Presbyterian Trustee" books and Carol Wehrheim, popular educator, writer and editor.

Just a reminder that the new [Book of Order: 2009-2011](#) is now available for all those thinking about officer training.

Watch this space next month for more titles from ThePresbyterianLeader.com such as "Disagreement in a Community of Faith" and "Developing Leadership in Your Congregation."

In our own Resource Center, adding a DVD version of the former VHS classic has broadened the appeal of such boxed curriculum as "**Discovering the Bible**" (Acc. #6217), a kit that introduces the Bible to older youth and adults in four sessions and "**Reformation Overview**" (Acc. #9201) for six to 13 sessions on the "lives and events which changed the world." Could these be just what your group is seeking?

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## [PRESBYTERY CALENDAR](#)

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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. 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

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