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June 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyterian Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

Monty Roberts, a real life "horse whisperer," learned his horse handling techniques from observing wild Mustangs in northern Nevada. Over the course of his observations of these magnificent creatures, he developed a way of communicating with horses he calls, "speaking Equus."



Roberts is best known for this practice of non-violent horse training. He doesn't use whips or shocking sticks, nothing that causes pain, but, instead, observes those subtle signals which indicate a horse is ready to enter into a relationship with him. He calls this willingness, "joining up." In the circular training ring, Roberts watches for the clues - an ear tilted toward the inside of the circular ring the horse is moving about, the lowering of the neck. When the horse communicates these signs of openness toward coming closer to Roberts, he turns at a forty-five degree angle away from the horse. He doesn't make eye contact. Tentatively, the horse begins to edge closer to Roberts until he comes close enough to join up.

In thinking about how we deal with one another, Monty Roberts comes to mind for what he can teach us. How often do we seek to get our way by overpowering someone else, a form of violence toward another which comes through words and attitudes that demean, inflict pain or demonize. Instead of entering into a respectful process of watching and listening to others, we want them to do what we want, when we want. So, while we may not break into fisticuffs, we nevertheless lambast others with our criticisms, our "superior" intellect, our talking over each other in escalating fashion. It's little wonder that these others choose to flee instead of joining up. When those outside the church observe our behavior as "insiders" what do they see and feel? Welcome through patient relationship building or something else?

I think today about those who are so in need of our careful attention - children and youth, those whose opinions get on our nerves, the pastor or church member who insists on being right instead of being in relationship, the neighbor who tell us, "You folks argue about stuff that doesn't matter to me." Instead of chasing after them, might we welcome their approach in their own way by our care in extending welcome - by our watching, encouraging, and, yes, waiting.

In faith,
[Bill](#)

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Quorum
Proposed Form of Government



The General Assembly overture regarding a new Form of Government is 10 votes from approval. If it is passed, Sessions IMMEDIATELY need to review bylaws regarding the quorum for meetings as the new proposed Form of Government has no specific instructions about the number required for a quorum. When the Constitution is silent on procedural issues, it defers to Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's has specified a quorum for organizational meetings as 50% plus one. This means that each Session should make sure that its bylaws (particularly for the congregation) specify a quorum. Otherwise, a Session or congregation could expect to conduct business (including the annual congregational meeting to elect officers, or to call a pastor) only when a majority of the congregation is present at a meeting. The current Book of Order states: "The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be not less than one tenth of the members unless the particular church, upon application to the presbytery, shall obtain the consent of the presbytery to a provision for a smaller quorum. A congregation by its own vote may fix a higher quorum." (G-7.0305) This statement can be made part of the Bylaws of the congregation.

Expecting a quorum of 10% of the membership is reasonable. A quorum of 50% plus one of the membership (particularly the membership number recorded on the Annual Statistical Report turned in to the General Assembly) might be more difficult to achieve.

Sessions need to be aware of this and review the Bylaws of the congregation. If the new Form of Government is approved, it will go into effect on July 10, 2011. Any changes must be made before that date.

Blessings of Eastertide,
[Cathy](#)

Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock Hosts 117th Stated Meeting of Presbytery

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Assistant Stated Clerk

(Commissioners may use this information as their report to Session. A printable copy is available [here](#).)

The Presbytery of Arkansas convened Saturday morning, June 4, 2011 in the sanctuary of Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock after the annual training of records review teams. Moderator Sam Highsmith called the meeting to order for a brief session of opening business. Morning worship was led by Elders Russ Mathis and Jeannie Ford, Moderator Highsmith, Revs. Shauna Silmon and Jim Freeman, sermon by Rev. Gradye Parsons (Stated Clerk of the PC(USA)), renewal of baptismal covenant and music by organist/music director Terry Jackson, Trinity Choir and a group of Trinity and First, Pine Bluff musicians. A total of 187 people (144 of whom could vote) registered for the only one-day presbytery meeting of the year. Worship offering for support of the Presbytery's partnership with Lacandon Presbytery in southern Mexico totaled \$1,505. Kid-friendly foods for Partners for Progress in Perry County were donated as the meeting's Ingathering Offering.

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO:

- Limit to one hour presentation, discussion and debate on the constitutional amendment for the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order
- Approve the 2011 status of honorably retired ministers which each selected as active or non-active
- Form and populate an Administrative Commission to inquire into and settle the difficulties of the Vaughn Church at Bentonville
- Approve increase in terms of Rev. David Schaller at Faith, Horseshoe Bend
- Concur with dissolution of call of Rev. Emmett Powers with First, Lonoke and his terms as interim pastor at First, Jonesboro

- Approve terms of Rev. Guy Delaney as interim pastor at First, Little Rock
- Elect four people to fill unexpired terms on committees and concur with election by Ferncliff Board of a person to fill an unexpired term on board
- Concur with dissolution of Rev. Steve Merrin's relationship with First, Fort Smith
- Concur with dissolution of Rev. Chip Andrus' relationship with First, Harrison
- Approve Rev. Debra Carl Freeman as interim pastor at First, Jacksonville for one year
- Enroll Molly McGinnis, a member of Westminster, Hot Springs, as an inquirer for ministry
- Grant permission to celebrate the Sacrament of Lord's Supper during the Footsteps in Faith trip June 6-16
- Form an Administrative Commission from members of the Committee on Congregational Care and Development to oversee the sale of a portion of presbytery-owned property on North Crossover Road in Fayetteville to the Arkansas Highway Department

CHANGES VOTED TO BOOK OF ORDER AS REFERRED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Approved the proposed new Form of Government section of the Book of Order
(This amendment is currently being voted on by presbyteries across the denomination and will only be included in the next Book of Order if approved by a majority of presbyteries.)

CHANGES VOTED TO PRESBYTERY DOCUMENTS:

The Presbytery's Manual of Operations will be altered to include two covenants approved by vote at this meeting:

- a new covenant between the Presbytery (through the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals) and the Laurence Schmidt Counseling Center through December 31 to provide for counseling services to church professionals
- a new covenant between Ferncliff Camp and the Presbytery of Arkansas

PRESBYTERY FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL REPORT VOTED OR READ:

- Vote to raise the spend rate to 5.5% this year if needed.
- Recognition of generosity of churches in their giving, acknowledgement of financial shortfall and decision to ask committee moderators to reduce spending by 20% of the 2011 budgeted amounts
- Review of insurance policies and financial audit for 2010 and financial reports for April, 2011
- Plan for replacing Presbytery and Financial Administrator by a combination of Texas Presbyterian Foundation involvement in financial services, in-house staff involvement of the Communications Director who becomes Director of Mission Support and assumes financial responsibilities, with other committee, reports and assistance redistributed to current staff, compensation/other costs, resulting in sizeable savings

PRESBYTERY HEARD REPORTS OF:

- Order of the Day led by Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) on the proposed amendment on the new Form of Government
- The need for flood buckets and the challenge to congregations by Committee on Disaster Preparation and Response to fill and return buckets to the October 14-15 meeting of presbytery
- Farewell, thanks and gifts to retiring Presbytery and Financial Administrator Pauline Rhodes
- A new scholarship beginning in 2012 for PC(USA) students for ½ tuition at Lyon College, Batesville
- Toney D. McMillan Vocational Discernment Fund
- Surveys on pilot project from Care and Nurture of Church Professionals for church professionals dealing with loss of spouse or incidence of cancer or Alzheimer's
- Continuing work of the background check policy subcommittee of Committee on Ministry
- Tribute to Rev. David Dyer of Little Rock who retires on July 31
- Recognition by Rev. Steve Hancock of long-time pastor in Arkansas Rev. Jim Freeman, who has accepted a call in Shreveport
- Introduction and welcome of Rev. Mike Kuner, minister member of Northern Kansas Presbytery, serving as interim pastor at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock
- Rev. Dari Rowen's completion of her D.Min. degree
- Statistics of nominated and elected people on committees, councils and boards and recommendations to increase inclusivity from Committee on Representation to Committee on Nominations
- Committee on Mission on the trip to Lacandon Presbytery in southern Mexico over spring break and survey by the committee of congregations on hunger in Arkansas and their response

-Financial future of the Hispanic New Church Development in Springdale and an invitation to congregations to pledge to this ministry

PRESBYTERY READ REPORTS OF:

- A unison recitation of a resolution honoring retiring staff member Pauline Rhodes
- Thanks from the seminaries of the denomination for contributing to the Theological Education Fund
- Approval without exception of the 2010 Presbytery minutes
- Deposit of records at the Presbyterian Historical Society from three dissolved churches
- Ministers laboring outside presbytery bounds
- Rev. Jim Miller, honorably retired, concluding his service as interim pastor at First, Little Rock
- Rev. Guy Delaney, honorably retired, who has finished his interim pastorate at First, Jonesboro
- Administrative Commission at First, Berryville working and planning the closing worship service later in June
- General Council's approval of Elder Leslie Pedersen on Administrative Commission for Northwest Arkansas New Church Development, referral of report from Dalar to Presbytery's Vision Task Force, Presbytery Meeting Model Task Force is still working as is Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Policy, referral of request for additional covenant to Mission Committee, endorsement of Solar Under the Sun proposal to PW Birthday Offering
- Annual review by Committee on Preparation for Ministry of inquirer Becky Purcell and their work on a packet for beginning inquirers and CPM process document
- Flyers on these special events: Big Tent in June, Youth Council applications, PW retreat in August, Keeping college students connected, October Presbytery-wide Mission Trip, Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo application

Disaster Assistance Opportunity

The Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response thought they were ambitious to hope 96 empty Emergency Clean-Up buckets would be snapped up by churches attending the June 4 Presbytery meeting, and be willing to fill them and return them to the October meeting in Conway (or sooner). Indeed, some people were upset that not enough buckets were available by the end of the meeting!

So, to resource the outward-looking Presbytery, the committee has ordered another 96 buckets/lids that will arrive at Ferncliff on Thursday. Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village will be waiting to take 25 the moment they arrive. The committee will take 36 buckets/lids on Friday to the Presbytery Office where they can be picked up if your church didn't get any at the meeting or wants more. The rest will be at Ferncliff's Disaster Center and also available to churches on a first come-first served basis. What a great response!

People and Church News

News of Our People

- **Mary Shaw** is resigning effective the end of June as Youth Director at First, Bentonville and will begin a part-time position as mission coordinator for the United Campus Ministry at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in August.
- **Rev. Guy Delaney**, honorably retired, is now serving First, Little Rock as interim pastor.
- **Rev. Steve Merrin** has resigned as Associate Pastor at First, Fort Smith to accept a call in Trenton, Missouri.
- **Rev. Barry Williams** has resigned as Interim Pastor at First, Fort Smith to accept a call in Springfield, Missouri.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Dari Rowen** on completion of her D.Min. degree from McCormick Seminary.

News of Our Congregations & Ministries

- **First, Pocahontas** mourns the death of Elder Jane Patterson, 88, and her interment on May 6. She was

the first female elder ordained by that congregation.

- **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** commissioned home communion servers.
- **First, Little Rock** now houses an organization called POWER which provides tutoring for children whose parents have been incarcerated.
- **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock Presbyterian Men** hosted a trip to an Arkansas Travelers baseball game in May.
- **First, Jonesboro Presbyterian Women** assembled hygiene kits for use in Japan and will send them to the Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff for delivery.
- **First, Bentonville** celebrated Senior Recognition Night at a potluck dinner with a video of the eight graduates.
- **Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge** celebrated Easter with four confirmations and three baptisms.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista Presbyterian Women** offered Mother's Day cards for sale to benefit health projects in four African countries.
- Children in grades 2-6 from **First, Conway and Westminster, Hot Springs** will cooperate for a mini-mission trip to Arkansas Rice Depot, Heifer International Village and other Little Rock work sites June 14-16.

Idea of the Month

First, Arkadelphia resumed Sunday morning Coffee Talk, a non-traditional gathering in which class members can submit theological questions or a scripture to explore ahead of time.

First, Eureka Springs Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Sunday, May 15 marked the 125th Anniversary of the building housing First, Eureka Springs. The congregation hosted a steeple dedication service led by pastor Rev. Clare Kelley, with General Presbyter Rev. Bill Galbraith in attendance. The theme for this dedication is "Welcome, love, and serve... for the glory of God."

First, Eureka Springs has been continually holding services in this building since 1886. In the fall of 1880 the Church held its first worship services and the congregation was formally chartered in March 1882. In 1886 the church was constructed of stone and lumber left over from the building of the Crescent Hotel.



Solar Under the Sun Graduates 23



Synod of the Sun's Solar Under the Sun Solar School graduated 23 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center on May 22. More information is available [here](#).

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

Change

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

It is with both sadness and joy that I say "Goodbye" to my colleague Pauline Rhodes. Pauline has been a dedicated servant to the Presbytery for over 12 years and we will, selfishly, miss her. We do, however, rejoice in her decision to retire and hope that she will pick-up the phone when we call.



Changes such as these are inevitable, and they lead to more change. I will take on Pauline's finance and administration duties, NiAnn Thompson nominations and representation, Cathy Ulrich statistical reports, and Whitney Bordelon will be the second set of eyes on financials. Presbytery will employ the Texas Presbyterian Foundation to keep the accounting records. This allows for stronger financial controls as 1) more eyes will be checking transactions and 2) new procedures have been put into place to ensure responsibility.

These changes in the responsibilities of ongoing Presbytery staff have been approved by the Personnel Sub-Committee and the Committee on Administration, and are consistent with the financial challenge to "do more with less."

My background in finance and administration is rather broad. Starting after graduate school with the Orleans Parish (Louisiana) Sheriff's Office in budgeting, purchasing, inventory control and information systems; First Presbyterian, Athens, Georgia as Business Administrator; Association of American Railroads (Washington, DC) as Manager of Payroll, Accounting and Information Systems; Holy Childhood Association (Washington, DC) as Manager of Administrative Services; Krajewski & Associates (Washington, DC) management consulting as Project Director with specialty areas of accounting, governmental issues and technology; and The Vermilion Group (Louisiana) management consulting in the areas of accounting, analysis and technology.

The result of this change is that the Presbytery will now have only two full-time employees, General Presbyter Bill Galbraith and me. It will take a little longer to return phone calls and email, answer the door (please use the doorbell), and to follow-up on requests, but this is the financial reality of our Presbytery.

A Note Upon Retirement

by [Pauline Rhodes](#)

I just want to thank everyone for your kindness and cooperation during my employment with the Presbytery of Arkansas. I have met and worked with wonderful people during my stay and, hopefully, will maintain friendships with many of you. The presbytery has been a great place to work and ending my 12 ½ years is difficult. I will think of you often and hold everyone in my prayers.



Save the Date

**Presbyterian Women's Retreat
August 11-13, 2011**

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

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

Presbytery Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee

October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Nashville.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo

October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. 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.)

Opportunities

First, Springdale Seeks Director of Christian Education

[Details here.](#)

The ARC (Arkansas Retired Clergy)

Some time ago the Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals endorsed Rev. Don Wardlaw's vision of an informal gathering of retired clergy to enhance both their retirement and their active worth to the Presbytery of Arkansas. After much exploration and prayer, this activity is still in the cocoon stage. There are over 30 retired clergy who have indicated some interest, so the wheels of progress move on slowly. If you or your church has any suggestions on what is of interest, or how you would utilize a retired pastor, let us know at dennis_bennett@sbcglobal.net.

Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) .

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

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 PATRONS:

- Rev. Marion Humphrey, Allison Memorial, Little Rock judges "**Meditations on the Cross**" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Acc. #BK6581) to be especially useful for personal devotions.
- Rev. Lacy Sellars, First, Hot Springs emailed gratitude for "**Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers**" by Donald McKim (Acc. #BK8257) as an "excellent source" which he is using for a Presbyterian 101 Class. A second version of More Q&As has been released.



- Rev. Emmett Powers, interim pastor at First, Jonesboro praised **"The Interim Pastor's Manual" revised edition** (Acc. #BK6799) as an excellent resource for those doing transitional ministry.
- My colleague Whitney Bordelon, youth director at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock used the children's illustrated book **"Josh: Coming to Terms with the Death of a Friend"** (Acc. #BK9137) with a child who lost a friend in a recent tornado.
- Rev. Randi Henderson, Mt. Comfort Presbyterian, Fayetteville lauds **"Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times: Being calm and courageous no matter what"** (Acc. #BK8985) which she has read, used and applied so often that it is highlighted, noted with shortcuts, like ministry speed-dial.

BOOKS FOR THE UPCOMING SUMMER: Look into the Bible, Mission, and Ministry

- **LifeGuides series of studies for individuals or groups: "Spiritual Gifts"** (Acc. #BK9466), **"Proverbs: Learning to Live Wisely"** in 10 studies (Acc. #BK9490), **"Couples of the Old Testament"** in 9 studies (Acc. #BK9467) and **"Paul: His Life and Teaching"** in 10 studies (Acc. #BK9468).
- **"Better Together: The Future of Presbyterian Mission"** (Acc. #BK9470) is a collection of best practices of contemporary mission work locally, nationally and globally.
- **"New Beginnings: A Pastorate Start-Up Workbook"** (Acc. #BK9485) and **"Pastoral Transitions: From endings to new beginnings"** (Acc. #BK9486) are both from Alban Institute.

DVD KITS TO CHECK OUT FOR NOW OR FALL

- **"Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church"** in six sessions by N.T. Wright (Acc. #DVD9527)
- **"Real Women, Real Faith: Life Changing Stories from the Bible for Women Today" Volume 1** (Acc. #DVD9528) addresses Rebekah, Abigail, Hannah, Eve, Gomer and Leah.
- **"Leading Change: Church Leadership Amid Turmoil"** with Peter L. Steinke (Acc. #DVD9531) features eight sessions on systems theory.

(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](#)

Director of Mission Support [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth Council [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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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