

May 2009

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



**IGPonderings** by Interim General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Sallie M. Watson

Dear friends,

I am giving my front page in The Banner to a churchwide letter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) and the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council.



Blessings to you,  
[Sallie](#)

April 28, 2009

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbyteries and their congregations

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Among the hundreds of actions taken by the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) last summer were ten amendments to the church's Constitution and four ecumenical statements that were then sent to all 173 presbyteries for ratification. Each of these items needed 87 votes, a simple majority of the presbyteries, to be adopted or defeated.

While presbyteries have until June 28 to vote, the Office of the General Assembly has now received official notification from enough presbyteries to know the outcome of each item.

With just a few dissenting votes, presbyteries approved historic covenants and agreements with the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church, the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, and the Moravian Church. In addition, the General Assembly Council will have a new name - the General Assembly Mission Council - which will put the word "mission" front-and-center to reinforce the work of the council.

Slightly less unanimity but substantial support was shown by presbyteries as they approved amendments addressing the leadership of certified educators at presbytery meetings, as well as adding the vows of membership to the Book of Order. Also adopted was a change in the Rules of Discipline that expands the role of alternative forms of resolution.

The proposed amendment that would have replaced the current language of G-6.0106b with new language is the only amendment that did not receive approval by a majority of presbyteries. This item in its current form will continue to be part of the Book of Order.

We have witnessed and heard many different stories as the amendment on G-6.0106b was debated. In this and other deliberations, we as a church have learned better how to talk about difficult issues in a spirit of trust and faith. We may not always agree, but we have never forgotten that those with whom we disagree are still our brothers and sisters, as together we strive to reflect our common calling to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

By God's grace, the Holy Spirit is at work, strengthening our commitment to one another through this denomination. We give thanks for a diverse and faithful church that challenges us all to serve with integrity and offer our gifts enthusiastically. Thanks be to God for our life together.

The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow  
Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008)

The Reverend Gradye Parsons  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Elder Linda Bryant Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Council

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## **Presbytery to Host General Assembly Vice-Moderator Rev. Dr. Byron Wade Sunday, May 31st, 3-5 p.m., Second Presbyterian, Little Rock**

Rev. Byron Wade will be honored by a reception hosted by the Presbytery on Pentecost Sunday, May 31 at 3:00 p.m. in the Great Hall at [Second Presbyterian, Little Rock](#). Rev. Wade will preach at all services at Second Presbyterian. All Banner readers are invited.



Rev. Wade has been pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian in Raleigh, North Carolina since 1996. He and his spouse Regina have a 6-year-old son, Andrew. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of the Redlands in California. He also holds an M.A. from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, a M.Div. from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary.

His first pastorate is the one he is still serving after 12 years. He is an active member of New Hope Presbytery, filling many positions within its structure and currently serving as vice moderator. On the national level, he has been part of the Black Presbyterian Caucus and on several committees relating to ministries with youth. He was an elected member of the General Assembly Council from 1993 to 1999 and currently serves on the planning team for the 2009 National Pastor's Sabbath.

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## **Denomination Votes Decide Constitutional Amendments**

Although presbyteries have until June 28 to vote on proposed changes to the [Book of Order](#), the outcome was decided on April 25. To date 164 of the 173 presbyteries have voted on whether or not to amend specific parts of the Constitution of the PC(USA) this year, and all 10 amendments and four ecumenical statements were decided by a majority vote of at least 87.

Amendment B on Ordination of Officers (which would have changed the wording on G-6.0106b, 14.0240, and 14.0450) was disapproved, and all other amendments and ecumenical statements were approved. The [Book of Order](#) for 2010-2011 which will reflect these changes will be printed later in the summer.

Following is the vote tally as of May 5th:

- Amendment 08-A, Vows of Membership, In favor 104, Against 60
- Amendment 08-B, Ordained Officers, In favor 73, Against 89
- Amendment 08-C, Replacing "sympathy" with "compassion," In favor 145, Against 19
- Amendment 08-D, General Assembly Council Name Change, In favor 152, Against 11
- Amendment 08-E, Nongeographic Presbyteries, In favor 146, Against 18
- Amendment 08-F, Presbytery Membership of Certified Christian Educators, In favor 103, Against 58
- Amendment 08-G, Synod Membership on Permanent Committees, In favor 143, Against 20
- Amendment 08-H, Five Ordination Examinations, In favor 144, Against 18
- Amendment 08-I, Certified Christian Educators, In favor 90, Against 71
- Amendment 08-J, Alternative Forms of Resolution, In favor 157, Against 7
- Proposed Ecumenical Statements:
- 08-K, Ecumenical Statement with the Roman Catholic Church, In favor 155, Against 2
- 08-L, Ecumenical Statement with the Episcopal Church, In favor 147, Against 10
- 08-M, Ecumenical Statement with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, In favor 156, Against 1
- 08-N, Ecumenical Statement with the Moravian Church, In favor 153, Against 3

The Presbytery of Arkansas had voted on February 21 to disapprove Amendments A, E, F, G, and I and to approve all other constitutional amendments plus the four ecumenical statements.

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## **111th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Saturday, June 6 - First, Searcy**

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; Annual Training of Cluster Records Review Teams at 8:45 a.m.; Gavel at 9:30 a.m.; Opening Worship at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Camille LeBron Powell preaching.

Commissioners will gather for lunch by geographic clusters.

Highlights: Reports from Mission Committee, Representation Committee, Presbyterian Women, exam for ordination of a candidate for ministry, and welcome of six new ministers.

Meeting packet will be posted on the presbytery web site by May 15.  
Ingathering donations for Good Samaritan of White County that are requested from commissioners are shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant. These are most-requested items by needy families.

## Presbyterian Women Install Leaders

by Kathy White



The 2009 Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women was hosted by Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock. Approximately 150 women from all across the Presbytery gathered for worship led by Rev. Cathy Ulrich (Acting Stated Clerk and Co-Pastor of Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith). Mary Beth Lysobey, participant in the 2008 Global Exchange of Presbyterian Women to Eastern Europe, presented the keynote address.

Lysobey of Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman was elected Moderator of Presbyterian Women for the next two years, and her Vice-Moderator will be Cissy Rose of Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith. Joan Erickson, Associate General Presbyter and Staff Resource for Presbyterian Women, conducted the installation of the 2009-10 Coordinating Team. The installation service recalled the entry of the Israelite nation into the Promised Land. Joshua asked twelve leaders, one from each tribe, to carry a stone from the middle of the Jordan into the new land. Ulrich handed each member of the Coordinating Team a stone containing a word taken from the Presbyterian Women Purpose. This service can be found in [Horizons](#) magazine and looks forward to the 2009-10 Bible study on Joshua.

Women from across the United States as well as Global Partners from Eastern Europe will be having the triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville July 11-15. Earlybird registration ends May 15. For more information, check the [web site](#) or contact [Kathy White](#).



Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team members of 2009-2010 are installed by Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson (at microphone) and Acting Stated Clerk Rev. Catherine Ulrich (seated). The class members are Sue Stille, Mary Beth Lysobey, Carolyn Nash, Helen Bumpas, Cissy Rose, and Kathy White.

## A Polity Point

by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Acting Stated Clerk

### SESSION MEETINGS AS "CLOSED" MEETINGS

If the Session is healthy, the church is healthy!

In the Presbyterian church, it is our form of government that sets us apart from every other denomination. All churches can worship or have Sunday school or do mission. But it is our understanding of parity in leadership, and our commitment to representation in decision-making that make our church unique in Christendom.

Most of our sessions function on a rather informal basis. The moderator (the pastor) and the members (pastor, associate pastor, and elders) are familiar with each other. The discussion is ordinarily open, and the business is conducted in a relaxed manner. For many of us, it is not unusual to have "guests" present during the session meeting. This is often the case if someone other than the clerk of session is taking the minutes or if the clerk is not currently an active member of the session. The [Book of Order](#) makes it clear that anyone else in attendance may be present only when invited by the session. (G-10.0201)

Our polity understands that the session is to provide for the leadership of the church. During the service of ordination and installation, the congregation affirms that the elders serving on the session are chosen by God to lead the congregation. (W-4.4004a(1)).

It is our practice to encourage the members of session and respect their decisions: to support the session with prayer, rather than with presence. Thus, we leave it to those who have been set aside for that role and purpose.



Blessings and peace, [Cathy](#)

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## Going Green in Faith and Life

by Betsy Gillaspy-Williams

"God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good." This is the introduction to the new [Green Bible](#), a NRSV version published in 2008. With a foreword by Desmond Tutu and very inspiring essays by conservationists and theologians, it certainly helps in understanding the biblical basis for humane and sustainable living.

Over 1,000 verses are written in green soy-based ink on recycled paper. These verses are based on four criteria:

- How God & Jesus interact with, care for, and are intimately involved with all of creation,
- How all the elements of creation---land, water, air, plants, animals, humans---are interdependent
- How nature responds to God
- How we are called to care for creation.

The [Green Bible](#) also includes a Green Subject Index and the Green Bible Trail Guide which is a series of Bible studies on the main themes of creation care. The essays are powerful, thought-provoking, and sometimes humorous. Ellen F. Davis reminds us that "Obedience to God means remembering that the land itself and all the life it yields are gifts...given in trust." Barbara Brown Taylor humorously tell us that 'although God may have made human beings for special purposes, we were not made of any more special stuff than the rest of creation.'

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## Together in God's Grace

by Associate General Presbyterian Joan Erickson



The Board of Pensions Consultation in Kansas City in April was two days packed with lots of information about the many ways that the Board of Pensions cares for those in God's service. Rev. Shauna Silmon, Presbytery Financial Administrator Pauline Rhodes and I attended to give feedback and to get updates. Here are some highlights:

[Optional Long-Term Care Insurance](#) is currently in a time of open enrollment through May 31. Phone 1.800.773.7752

[Affiliated Benefits Program](#) gives churches the option of partial coverage for non-called employees.

[Transition-to-College Grants](#) are available for members who have a dependent starting college.

[Employee Assistance Programs](#) are Enhanced Financial Services, and Legal & Identity Theft Support which includes free consultations.

[Globalfit](#) offers discounted membership to fitness centers.

The president of the Board of Pensions made the statement that whenever there is an issue concerning insurance, the first call should be to the provider Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Express Scripts, or CIGNA Behavioral Health. If contacting the provider does not resolve the problem then the follow-up should be to the [Board of Pensions web site](#).

[Joan](#)

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## Park Hill Continues Easter Basket Tradition

For at least the tenth year the members of the Congregational Mission Ministry Team at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock, spearheaded by Bettye Clemens, created and delivered over 100 Easter baskets filled with candy treats and personal toiletries for



patients at Arkansas Hospice.

## PEOPLE AND CHURCH NEWS

### NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- **Eric Marsh** has been hired as Youth Director at Central, Russellville.
- **Dr. Ann Rye** is retiring as organist at First, Hot Springs effective May 31.
- **Lisa Hester** is the new organist at First, Benton.
- **Rev. Alan Ford**, pastor of First, Newport, is recovering from surgery performed on April 21.
- **Claudia Marsh** is retiring on June 30 as Director of Church Relations at Lyon College, Batesville.
- **Phil DeJong** has graduated from John Brown University, Siloam Springs, and moved to St. Louis. He has served as youth director at First, Siloam Springs.

### NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

- **Mountainburg's** Joy Ringers participated with 25 handbell choirs in the Spring Ring Handbell Festival in Fayetteville on April 25.
- **First, Mountain Home** has expanded their Prayer Partners group to include homebound members who remember all those on the prayer list even when the homebound members are unable to attend gatherings at church.
- **First, Springdale** published a Sunday School Survey in their newsletter requesting demographic information, class preferences and input from people attending and those not yet attending Sunday classes.
- **First, Heber Springs** schedules a deacon of the day and elder as well as greeters and ushers every Sunday.
- **First, Jacksonville** is offering a free 5-week seminar "Growing Through Grief" to the public led by Rev. David Dyer and Deacon Gloria Evans beginning May 21.
- **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** deacons and their Child Development Center held a blood drive on April 17-18.
- **First, Little Rock** hosted the Lyon College Concert Chorale and the Batesville Choral Society in an All Lenten concert on April 6.
- **First, Hot Springs** is participating in the work of the Garland County Habitat for Humanity's Apostles Build of building a home near the church.
- **First, Benton** held a rummage sale (Junktique Crawl) on April 18 at which their youth sold coffee and donuts.
- Students at **First, Pine Bluff** Music and Arts Institute presented their annual recital and art exhibition on the afternoon of April 26, with a reception following.
- **First, Arkadelphia** is working with Ferncliff Camp to send several local children who are not affiliated with the church to a session of church camp this summer.
- **First, Dardanelle** is training members to be "contactor/relater" to approach, renew or build a relationship with an absent member or family or prospective member.
- **First, Rogers** hosts a group for those who have lost their spouse (Healing Hearts) and a support group for those dealing with depression (Coping with Life).
- **Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** will have a handbell choir concert of music from sacred to Broadway tunes by their adult and youth choirs at 3:00 p.m. on May 17.



Presbyterian Women from Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista Barb Tropansky, Burnis Leavens and Emily Dieleman presented quilts for students to Virginia Scott (third from left) representing Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home.

### THE CHURCH CONNECTIONAL

- **Highland Presbyterian** hosted the Good Friday Joint Service on April 10 for **First and Westminster, Hot Springs**.

### NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS

- Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Jerry and Anna Bedford** of Little Rock on the death on February 20 of Jerry's brother Neal Bedford in Naples, Florida. Jerry is an honorably retired minister/counselor and Anna is a retired Certified Christian Educator.
- Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Walter and Norma Swetnam** of Batesville on the death of his youngest sister, Iris, on April 18.
- **Linda LeBron** of Little Rock wrote an article "Home grown faith" for the May 11th issue of [The Presbyterian Outlook](#) devoted to Teacher Training. She is a retired Certified Christian Educator.

## Church Grateful for Every Two Cents

Centsability (formerly "Two Cents a Meal"), the Presbyterian Hunger Program, is primarily funded by Presbyterian Women and funds are disbursed annually by Presbytery's Committee on Mission. Funds are equally divided among an international, national and local recipient. The 2008 local recipient was First, Bentonville's Food Pantry.

April 2, 2009

To the Presbytery of Arkansas:

Brothers and Sisters in the Work of Christ:

Thank you! Our Food Pantry was graciously given a grant for the continuation of our work feeding the needy of our area. We feel that we have been called to serve those whose lives have been stricken by adversity and are committed to finding additional ways to strengthen and uphold them. We realize that hunger must be met before any other concerns can be addressed. In addition to food we try to uplift them with friendship, counsel, and prayer. We have been blessed by stories they share of their successes in which we may have had some small part.

We have learned much since our opening of the pantry in August, 2007 and have had significant increase in numbers. This may be due to economic factors but we like to think that we are offering more than just food for their bodies. During 2008 we supplied food for 3096 individuals in 758 households. This year through the month of March we have served 680 individuals in 254 households. Our supply has never lagged and has grown from being sufficient to a level exceeding our demand. With this in mind we can turn our attentions to greater service without being concerned with a lack of resources. Just further confirmation that God has plans for us.

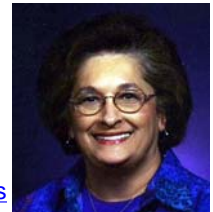
Besides being a service to the needy, this mission has given new life to the commitment of our congregation. It is a mission that they can see, support directly, and become personally involved in. More are being blessed by this endeavor than those who receive services.

Once again, Thank you for your generous support of our mission.

Lloyd Collins                      Mary Shaw                      Z Cooper                      Pat Lockridge  
Member Food Pantry Committee    Member Food Pantry Committee    Member Food Pantry Committee    Mission Committee Chair

### Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

April Revenue	\$ 66,386.36	Year-to-Date Actual as of April 30	
April Expenses	<u>\$ 72,315.41</u>	Revenue	\$ 211,195.08
April Deficit	\$ <u>5,929.05-</u>	Expenses	<u>\$ 304,693.35</u>
		Deficit	\$ <u>93,498.27-</u>



[Pauline Rhodes](#)

**Are you current with your congregation's pledge? The presbytery needs and appreciates your support.**

### IGP ITINERARY

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

May 12 Committee on Nominations, Presbytery Office  
 May 16 Committee on Administration, First, Conway  
 May 17 Worship at First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville  
 May 18-24 Study Leave  
 May 27 Vera Lloyd Board Meeting, Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock  
 May 27 Presbytery Meeting Docket Review, Presbytery Office  
 May 27 Communications Policy Review, Presbytery Office  
 May 31 Worship at First, Little Rock  
 May 31 Reception for GA Vice-Moderator Rev. Byron Wade, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock  
 June 1 & 2 Synod of the Sun meeting, San Antonio  
 June 2 Committee on Ministry, First, Conway  
 June 2 Committee on Administration Conference Call

June 6 111th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, First, Searcy  
June 7 Preach at First, Little Rock  
June 7 Evelyn Coleman's ordination at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock  
June 7 Meet with Footsteps in Faith group, Ferncliff  
June 9 Solar Under the Sun meeting, Ferncliff

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## Upcoming Free Webinars Offered on Growth

Beginning in May, the Office of Church Growth of PC(USA) will be sponsoring a series of free webinars on issues surrounding congregational transformation.

Go to [PresbyGrow.net](http://PresbyGrow.net) for information on how to register and log-on to the webinars. All webinars will be at 2:00 P.M. EDT

- May 19 Topic: Will Your congregation Still Exist Ten Years from Now?

Synopsis: What are the threats to the long-term vitality of your congregation? How can you address them and experience transformation?

- June 16 Topic: First Steps in Church Transformation

Synopsis: Beginning is the difficult part of church transformation. Some of the foundational systemic issues that must be addressed before the process of church transformation can begin will be addressed.

- July 21 Topic: Making Shifts Without Making Waves

Synopsis: A coach approach to introducing and managing change in your church that will minimize the destructive waves that often come when change is mentioned.

- August 18 Topic: Lessons from Paul on Leadership for Transforming Churches into Mission Outposts

Synopsis: A Mission outpost is a church with an outward focus which equips its people to be missionaries in his or her own mission field. Rather than insisting members be involved in maintenance, they are trained to be emissaries of the Kingdom of God where they live and work.

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## Help with Preaching

by Rev. Don Wardlaw

Most continuing education offerings in preaching consist of one-shot seminars with little extended attention to how the experience plays out in the preacher's sermon preparation and delivery. These singular workshops can have some impact, but most preachers will make few significant behavioral changes in response without careful, subsequent observation by the seminar leader.

A program of ongoing attention to your preaching is now available here. Don Wardlaw, Professor Emeritus of Preaching at McCormick Seminary now retired in his hometown of Little Rock, is offering an extended continuing education program called "Growth in Preaching." This learning program extends over nine months and includes three two-day seminars and the evaluation of five of your videotaped sermons. A Presbyterian minister, Wardlaw graduated from Columbia University, Union Seminary in Virginia with a Ph.D. in New Testament from Aberdeen, Scotland and founded the Chicago D. Min. in Preaching program, a premier national doctoral program for working pastors. The first "Growth in Preaching" group is slated to begin in late August and conclude in May, 2010. Look for details later.

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## MAKING HISTORY TODAY: WHAT IS A SAINT?

by [James S. Currie, Ph.D.](#), Executive Secretary, Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest

The story goes that in the first half of the 20th century a professor at Austin Seminary would open every class with the words, "OK, let's get to work, saints!"



How would you define the word "saint"? In the Roman Catholic tradition a saint is one who has distinguished himself or herself by some heroic virtue or act. A person is declared a saint by a pronouncement by the pope. [Read more here.](#)

## An Important Letter to the Churches and Pastors Concerning the Upcoming Pandemic Flu

by [Peter Nord](#), Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Baltimore



Experts feel an influenza pandemic is likely and we need to prepare ourselves and our congregations. It might be as serious as the 1918 "Spanish flu." As with any natural or human disaster, our churches and Presbytery will need to respond to our own needs, the needs of our most vulnerable members, and the many needs of those around us. The Health Ministries web site of PC(USA) states: "Often, it is what we do not understand that frightens us most. Keeping Presbyterians up-to-date with reliable information and passing along the preparedness recommendations can help keep members from feeling as though they have no control." [Read more.](#)

## The Bible in 90 Days Challenge Accepted by Malvern Church



At the beginning of the year Pastor Carl McCormack challenged the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Malvern to join him in reading "**The Bible in 90 Days.**" This might sound like a lot to ask of group of busy adults, but they responded and took up the challenge. Thirty-three people signed up, but as you might imagine a few dropped out along the way. Yet, when the final class was held on Palm Sunday 27 people graduated. Not bad for a congregation of only 112.

Though a few had read the Bible before, for most of the participants this was their first attempt to read the Bible in its entirety, and it was an exciting experience. Each Sunday the class would review the previous week's reading, discuss questions that arose from the reading, and then watch a 20 minute video. Pastor McCormack found the time spent sharing thoughts and impressions to be the most rewarding. Upon completion of the 14 week

course most everyone agreed that they had a new appreciation for Scripture.

The curriculum, developed by Ted Cooper, a Presbyterian Elder from Houston, Texas, has gained popularity across the country, and is **available in Presbytery Resource Center**. The process is quite simple; you read 12 pages every day beginning with Genesis 1:1 and in 90 days you will have read the complete Old and New Testaments. The most difficult part of the program is carving time out of your daily schedule to do the reading, but the rewards are tremendous.

It is not necessary that the class leader of "**The Bible in 90 Days**" be a Bible scholar because the curriculum includes a set of three DVDs that have the option of hearing a professor of Biblical studies present a 20-minute program each week, or hearing from a man who has taught the Bible in a local church setting for almost 30 years.

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Malvern highly recommends this resource for all of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Just stick with the program, 12 pages a day, and you too can read the entire Bible in 90 days.

## Weatherman Chosen as Lyon's Next President

Dr. Donald V. Weatherman left Lyon College 10 years ago as a professor of political philosophy. He will return in July as the 17th president of the college.

The Lyon College Board of Trustees approved Weatherman's nomination as the next president of Lyon at its spring meeting on April 17. He will succeed Dr. Walter B. Roetger, who is retiring in June after 11 years as the college's president. Lyon College in Batesville is a liberal arts college related to the PC(USA) which hosts Presbytery meetings in February of even years.



Weatherman served as the John D. Trimble Sr. Professor of Political Philosophy at Lyon from 1983 to 1999. He left to become vice president and dean of Erskine College in South Carolina. In 2003, he was promoted to executive vice president and dean and serves as a professor of politics at Erskine.

Dr. Terrell Tebbetts, who represented the Lyon faculty on the search committee, said, "Dr. Weatherman stood out from the other candidates because of the breadth of his leadership experiences, his knowledge of the Lyon community, and the respect the Lyon

and Batesville communities hold for him. Because of his work at Lyon and in the Batesville community, Dr. Weatherman is returning to find a wealth of good will awaiting him," Tebbetts said.

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## Bike and Build Stops at University of the Ozarks

by Dawn Scarborough

The 2009 route for Bike and Build will be traveling through Arkansas again!

After spending a day working on a Habitat for Humanity site in Little Rock, these bicyclists who ride 3513 miles cross country will arrive in Clarksville on Saturday, June 13. This year, the student chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be the hosting organization, and the cyclists will be staying on the University of the Ozarks campus.



This group of 30 college students is on an awareness-building cycling tour traveling from the Outer Banks of the East Coast through Arkansas, ending in San Diego. University of the Ozarks, a four-year university related to the PC(USA), will provide overnight accommodations, a potluck dinner, and a presentation of the purpose of the tour. Cyclists will leave Sunday morning and be in Fayetteville that night.

Their official [web site](#) will give you detailed information regarding their route, work days, tour participants, and the background of Bike and Build.

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## 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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## RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

9221 North Rodney Parham Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227-6201  
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NiAnn Thompson, Director



## RAVE REVIEWS

Friends from near and far have shared their assessments of our resources this month. Johnsyne Campbell of Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock says that the continuing favorites **NEST** children's animated videos (covering both Old and New Testament people and events) have worked well this spring for their small group of different age children in Sunday School. Sara Johnson of Holiday Island Presbyterian reports that the children's movie "**Visual Bible for Kids: The Story Behind the Cross**" (Acc. #VC7035) was excellent for their Sunday School, combining modern-day children with the live-action Biblical stories. Claire Cranford at Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City writes that the Presbyterian materials they used for confirmation ("**We Believe: Professing Our Faith - A Confirmation Curriculum**") and the video "**Across the Centuries**") were quite good and age-appropriate.

YOUR Resource Center has the revised, edited and expanded "Version 2.0" of "**Starting New Churches**" which still provides a 16-Step process but has added more room for personal notes and reflections as well as new appendices that explain how to choose a Discernment Team and do a Site Visit Report.

Please remember too [The Thoughtful Christian](#) web-based curriculum ([www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com](http://www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com)) produced by the PC(USA), now in its third year. Susie Wright, Christian Educator at Westminster, Hot Springs, particularly recommends the single session

studies on Parenting Teens. YOUR Resource Center has hardcopies of these very timely titles if you would prefer to preview before purchasing online: "Building Self-Esteem in Your Teen," "Bullying: Sticks, Stones, E-mails and Texts," "Facing the Empty Nest," "Helping Teens Choose Healthy Friendships," "Helping Teens Connect to Their Church Community," "Dealing with Daily Pressure," "Helping Your Teen Grieve," "Helping Teens Without Doing Their Homework" and more.

YOUR Resource Center also offers to loan you the set to equip you and your group on "**The Bible in 90 Days**" as you read about on a previous page. Set includes a Resource CD-Rom, 3 DVDs for the 14 sessions, Leader's Guide on DVD, two participant's guide (optional), "The Essential Bible Companion" and seven copies of the NIV Bible designed for reading 12 pages a day.

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### Hammond Double Keyboard Organ

Any church interested in a Hammond Double Keyboard Organ please contact [Mel Dunkle](#) at 501.268.5297 (Searcy).

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### Paraments for the Taking

Two sets of velvet-lined paraments are available to the first interested congregation. One set is deep purple with gold fringe and the other is deep red with white fringe. The pulpit cloth measures 19 1/2" wide by 42" long and the communion table drape is 19 1/2" wide by 76" long. One cream-colored, gold-embroidered pulpit scarf is also available which measures 11" wide by 32" long. Contact the Presbytery Office at 501.663.2424.

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### Interim Pastor Education Set

"The Art of Transitional Ministry" is the theme of this training July 19-24 at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe. Rev. Barry Williams, interim pastor at First United, Fayetteville, is one of the instructors. Flyers are available at the presbytery office.

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### [PRESBYTERY CALENDAR](#)

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#### PRESBYTERY STAFF:

Interim General Presbyter [SALLIE M. WATSON](#)

Associate General Presbyter [JOAN ERICKSON](#)

Resource Center Director/Assistant Stated Clerk/Banner Editor [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Presbytery & Financial Administrator [PAULINE RHODES](#)

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We are composed of over 15,300 Presbyterians gathered in 91 congregations, two New Church Developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

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