



May 2013

# The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

## In this issue:

(Click on the link below to jump directly to an article, or scroll/page down to read the entire Banner from beginning to end)

[Bill Galbraith: Camp's Open Door](#)

[Church Employment Opportunities in the Presbytery](#)

[Disaster Assistance Helpful Hint](#)

[News of Our People and Our Congregations](#)

[Second Presbyterian \(Little Rock\) to Host Presbytery Meeting](#)

[NiAnn Thompson: Resource Center News](#)

[News for Presbytery Youth](#)

[Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home Receives Grant](#)

[APA--Ever Heard of It?](#)

[Presbytery Offers Ministry Grants Through CC&D](#)

[Arkansas Interfaith Conference Annual Assembly](#)

[An Invitation to Pilgrimage #19 at Ferncliff](#)

[Presbytery Prayer List](#)

[Link to Presbyterian Women Newsletter](#)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

[Staff Contacts](#)

[About the Presbytery of Arkansas](#)

## **Bending a Rule, Opening a Door**

I nervously rehearsed the call a last time before picking up the phone and dialing. My heart thumped; my palms turned clammy as I dialed Mr. Bass' office number. Mr. Bass was Bob Bass, a plain talking former oil executive who had become the Executive Presbyter of our South Texas presbytery, Del Salvador. He was a take charge guy, not afraid to say exactly what he thought and more than a little intimidating to this high school junior. The call was forwarded to Mr. Bass' office. He answered with a self-confident, "Bob Bass." "Mr. Bass," I said clearing my throat, "I'd like to come see you about working at John Knox Ranch." John Knox was our



presbytery's summer camp. I already knew the camp's policy. You had to be two years out of high school to work there and I was way too young. I knew, however, that my brother wasn't going back to life-guard there the next summer and, with Water Safety Instructor certification completed, perhaps I could be considered for the vacancy. That is, if the age rule could be reconsidered. It was worth a try.

Mr. Bass could have said, "No, can't do it. You're too young." But he didn't. I'm not sure why he didn't say, "Sorry, rules are rules," other than that my brother had done a good job. Maybe he thought I might do so as well. All he asked was, "Do you think you can do it?" The work wasn't complicated -- take care of the pool, serve as the life-guard at the pool and the river, mow the grass, get the campsites back in order for each camp, change the mattress covers, inventory supplies and clean the showers before the next campers arrived - so, I said, "I believe I can." "Well, let's go out to John Knox," he responded, "I need to show you some things." We drove out to the ranch; met the manager, Kermit, who wore a patch over one eye, and, then, went over all that was expected. Mr. Bass said, "I'm trusting you to do this well," then followed with, "You can have the job."

Over the years, I've often thought about the opportunity Bob Bass offered. It was more than a summer job although it extended the next five years. It was opening a door to serving God in the direction my heart was beginning to lean. It was fostering an awareness that God had already been at work in ways I could begin to claim or have the Church claim for me. It was the Church saying to another baptized kid, "We trust you and believe that God will use you for something good."

The story is not unusual. In any gathering of church leaders, many will identify that their first nudging toward ministry occurred at camp or through a conference. As we prepare for a season of camps and conferences, expect leaders to be developed. At places George MacLeod described as, "thin as gossamer between heaven and earth," places like Ferncliff, Mo-Ranch, Montreat, Purdue and, yes, John Knox Ranch, lives will be claimed for the adventure of living into God's call. Doors will be opened. To know that God trusts us and has a purpose for us is a blessed assurance. We are privileged to be partners in this discovery through our support of Presbyterian camp and conference centers. With God's help, let's keep at it.

Gratefully yours,

**Bill**

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

May

19 Worship, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Frisco, Texas

21-22 Synod Meeting, Irving, Texas

26 Celebration of Carl McCormack's ministry, First Presbyterian, Malvern

29-30 Vera Lloyd Board Meeting, Monticello

June

01 Presbytery Meeting, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock

02 Preach, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

03-10 Presbyterian Credo, Wooded Glen Conference Center, Henryville, Indiana

11 Statehouse Convention Center, Participant, Ordination of United Methodist Elders

12 Jackson Cook Memorial Lecture, Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City

16 Preach, Central Presbyterian, Russellville

30 Preach, First Presbyterian, Jonesboro

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## **Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery**

**Choir Director** -- First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas, seeks a choir director for Wednesdays and Sundays. A job description and an application form are available by contacting the church at 870-741-2464 or [jane@fpcharrison.org](mailto:jane@fpcharrison.org).

**Youth and College Ministry Director** -- First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville. Seeking a young adult to a new, full-time position as Youth and College Ministry Director. Looking for someone with a mature Christian faith consistent with the Reformed tradition, and the warmth and confidence to do direct outreach on school campuses and at the University of Arkansas. The full position announcement is posted on the church's website at [www.fupcfay.org](http://www.fupcfay.org) under "Leadership" then "Positions Open." You may send resumes to [jprice1210@hotmail.com](mailto:jprice1210@hotmail.com).

**Assistant Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas** -- Effective January 1, 2014, part-time Assistant Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas. [Click here](#) to view job description. Current Assistant Stated Clerk NiAnn Thompson ([niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org)) will gladly answer questions about the position she will vacate next year. Stipend offered and mileage reimbursed. Send resumes to Rev. Guy Delaney, moderator of Committee on Administration, at [info@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:info@presbyteryofarkansas.org) for election on Oct. 5.

**Choir Director** -- Kirk of the Hills (Fairfield Bay, AR) seeks an organist/choir director beginning in July, 2013. If you are interested, please email Pastor Bob Hadley at [rwhadley@artelco.com](mailto:rwhadley@artelco.com).

**Pianist** -- First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville is in need of a pianist. The ability to play the organ is an asset but is not required. We are a small church of very friendly people. We are looking for someone to play the piano; someone who will support our Praise & Worship Band as well as play solo. Church service is 11-12 on

Sundays. The choir and band practice once a week; the pianist would be wanted for the practice. Salary is negotiable.

**Youth Director** -- Trinity Presbyterian Church of Little Rock is seeking a Youth Director. This is a part time position and requires loving the Lord and loving Junior and Senior High kids. A short job description is available [here](#). If you are interested, please call the church office at 501-868-5848 or email at [office@trinitypreslr.com](mailto:office@trinitypreslr.com) for more information.

**Youth Intern** -- First Presbyterian, Harrison is seeking a young adult who has the ability to lead our junior and senior high youth into deeper Christian discipleship as they grow physically, mentally and spiritually. This person would need to be available on Sundays, mornings and evenings. For a more complete job description and application form please contact the Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Jane Huffstetler at [jane@fpcharrison.org](mailto:jane@fpcharrison.org), check out our website at [www.harrisonfpc.org](http://www.harrisonfpc.org), or contact the church office at 870/741-2464.

**Director of Youth Ministries and Christian Education** -- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs seeks qualified candidate for the position of Director of Youth Ministries and Christian Education. This is a professional, full-time lay position with primary focus towards Youth Ministries with additional responsibilities for Christian Education for the entire congregation. Email your resume and cover letter to [wpchsar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpchsar@sbcglobal.net). A complete job description is available if requested. [Back to the top of this email](#)



## **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a mission program of PC(USA)

**Q: What emergency telephone numbers do you need to post beside *every* phone in your church?**

**A: Here's a starter set of contacts. Add others that pertain to your community.**

9-1-1: EMS, fire and/or police

City water department

Poison control center

Your church's insurance company representative

All members of the church staff

Your church's facilities chairperson

Presbytery office

***By thinking these things through now, you may be able to keep an emergency from becoming a disaster.***

### ***Boston Response***

Following the tragedy at the Boston Marathon, members of the PDA National Response Team were deployed to provide consultation and support to leaders of the faith community

as they gather and assess their role in response to the violence in their community. An initial report, prayers and worship resources are available online [here](#).

Gifts to support the response may be sent to PDA designated for DR000015- Boston.  
***West, Texas, Response***

The explosion of 25 tons of fertilizer at a plant in West, Texas, has devastated the community.

National Response Team members were organized and deployed to the area as quickly as possible.

An initial report, prayers and worship resources are available online [here](#).

Gifts to support the response may be sent to PDA designated for DR000015- West, TX.  
***Please Pray***

Please keep the families and communities affected by these tragedies in prayer, that the hope of Christ will be evident, even through the chaos and trauma. Please visit the web reports for prayers to share with your congregation.

**--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee. Additional information is available at:**

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## People and Church News

### **News of Our People**

--**Christian Huisman**, a lifelong member of Second, Little Rock, is that congregation's summer intern. He is a student at UALR, pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work.

--Lyon College, Batesville is seeking a PC(USA) teaching elder to begin work as their college chaplain no later than August 1. Rev. Nancy McSpadden, a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, was the previous chaplain.

--Commissioned Ruling Elder **Jim Keyes**, One-o-One Presbyterian Church, Gamaliel is recuperating from surgery.

--**Rev. Barry Williams** of Springfield, MO began work on May 1 as the co-interim pastor at First, Bentonville with Rev. Kris Crawford. Williams previously served at First, Conway; First United, Fayetteville; and First, Fort Smith as interim pastor and is a member of John Calvin Presbytery.

--**Rev. Bill and Liz Branch** are serving as peacemaking companions to the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC). They were in Barranquilla (on the Caribbean coast) three years ago and are happy to be back. Their mission, at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC), is to stand in solidarity with the IPC in their support of human rights and against violence, but especially to support the internally displaced people of Colombia (c. 1/10th of the population). If you're interested, you can find or follow their blog at <http://www.erwwbranch.blogspot.com/>. The Branches covet your prayers for our PCUSA partners in Colombia and for Liz and Bill as they serve.

### **News of Our Congregations and Ministries**

--**First, Fort Smith** held a Session Cook-Off and Presbyterian Women Bake Sale after worship on April 14.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** is recruiting for four-person teams of Presbyterian Golf

Amateurs (PGA).

--**First, Batesville** is celebrating spring with P.O.P. (punch on the porch) after worship.

--**First, Morrilton** held a Chili Dinner and Dessert Auction to raise money to send four of their youth to the 2013 Triennium event this summer.

--**First, Newport** hosted a reception mid-afternoon on April 28 to honor Rev. Alan Ford's retirement.

--**Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** has a parents group which meets on the fourth Thursday night to eat, visit and get tips on parenting. Another plus is childcare provided at the church.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** held a Wholeness and Healing Service in April.

--**First, Hot Springs** members and friends bring aluminum cans to the church kitchen for recycling with proceeds going to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** is organizing a trip to Murry's Dinner Theatre in May and again in June.

--**Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** is collecting canned goods for Union Rescue Mission.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** has renewed their Prayer Shawl Ministry which meets monthly on a Sunday afternoon.

--**First, Yellville** is sending care packages of goodies and notes of encouragement to their college students preparing for final exams.

--Over 50% of **First, Prairie Grove** congregation has volunteered throughout the years to distribute dry beans and rice to those who request them, without question or eligibility requirements.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** newsletter offered the PC(USA) article on the Day of Pentecost, celebrated this year on May 19.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** has invited the people of the closed Disciples of Christ congregation to join them in worship.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** does pastoral care by taking food to families who are ill or recuperating from surgery and beginning a new prayer chain list.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

## **Second Presbyterian, Little Rock To Host Presbytery Meeting**

On Saturday, June 1, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 123rd stated meeting at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. Those people preparing for or carrying out cluster records review this spring and summer will have training before the meeting from Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the gavel falls at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary for worship led by a candidate for ordination and including the commissioning of high school youth to attend Triennium and college youth working as summer camp counselors at Ferncliff. Ruling Elder Sheree Niece, now of Hot Springs Village, will moderate the meeting.

Highlights of the one-day meeting, where business will be conducted in the Great Hall, will be a presentation at 11 a.m. by Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick on marriage from a Reformed biblical perspective, voting on amending the Book of Confessions to include the new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism, selecting the presbytery's unified mission emphasis for 2014-2016, recognizing Alan Ford's retirement, and an Order of the Day at 1 p.m. on the newly passed Church Protection Act (concealed weapons in worship spaces). Worship offering will benefit the presbytery's youth trip to Triennium 2013 this summer and establish a reserve fund for youth travel. Ingathering items requested (non-perishable foods) are designated for Arkansas Rice Depot. Young Adult Delegate Advisors, ages 18-28, are invited from congregations

and campus ministries.

Packets to read in preparation for this meeting have been posted, and addenda packets will be posted on May 21.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

### **Resource Center News**

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director  
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

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

**RAVE REVIEW** from Resource Center board members

Sue Rennie, Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock writes: "In the March issue of *The Banner*, Julie Price, DCE at Trinity Presbyterian, LR wrote a RAVE REVIEW of our Presbytery Resource Center (and Director). All I could do was say **right on** and **ditto**.



I am not a church professional, just a long time member of Park Hill Presbyterian Church who taught two-year-olds when I was younger and since then, a member of an adult Sunday School class as a passive listener to others as they led. About three years ago, I found myself somehow responsible for finding new literature for our class to study. Our class is a little different in what we like to study, from current books that help us to be better witnesses for Christ to random books of the Bible. Knowing the folks of our class, I knew I needed some help finding the right resources and the name NiAnn Thompson was the name heard whenever I inquired. I first called her about a resource we could use for the six weeks of Lent. Of course, NiAnn strives to keep the Resource Center up to date with current and relevant material and she provided me with several choices for our review in a most gracious, welcoming manner (NiAnn is that way). The resounding praise received from the class for the choice was unanimous. Since that time, I have used her knowledge and suggestions several times.

So if you have not tried this great resource center, you are missing an opportunity to improve your understanding of the Bible and God's plan for all of us. NiAnn is available at 501-663-2424 ex. 104 or e-mail [niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org). Contact her: you will not regret it."

An email from Betsy Gillaspay Williams, First, Conway.

"At our last Resource Center meeting I took the book **Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting** to read. LOVE it! It has 7 chapters on Patience, Loss of control, Living in the Present, Compassion, Gratitude, Humility, Trust in God and has suggestions on how to use in a group. I hope to 'sell' my Christ Care group on using it and would recommend it to everyone. Aren't we all waiting for something???"

The Resource Center board members are often asked the following questions about how the Resource Center functions.

Do you sell books, DVDs, curricula, and equipment? **No, we are the lending library of the presbytery that makes these items available FREE to member congregations, their members, leaders and staff.**

How do we who are outside of Little Rock see what you have to offer? **You are invited to stop by the Resource Center in the presbytery office any weekday when you're in Little Rock (8:30-4:30) to browse or go to the presbytery's website to search our online catalog. NiAnn also can give advice on directions to pursue with groups.**

If I see something I'd like to preview, can I do that and how do I return it? **On the online catalog is space to make your request or you can email, phone or fax your request to NiAnn Thompson. The items available will be mailed to you under media or library postal rate and you may mail them back the same way, drop them off at the office or at the next presbytery meeting. Normal loan period is one month, but longer loans can be arranged.**

**REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG!** Just go to the [www.presbyteryofarkansas.org](http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org) website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple

or advanced search for just the right item.

*(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education)*

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## **Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News**

**Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery?  
"Like" us on Facebook!**

Search

**PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry**

on Facebook,

or go to

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

### **Vera Lloyd's Transitional Living Program Receives Grant**

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services received notification that they will be recipients of a \$35,000 grant for a van for their Transitional Living Program. The grant is from the Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Thank Offering originated in the late 1800s and is a PW offering collected in the fall of each year. It gives women a way to express their gratitude for the blessings in their lives. It is a blessing for Vera Lloyd to receive this gift and we want to express our gratitude to all of the Presbyterian Women who make this grant a possibility with their gifts.

For more information about Vera Lloyd:

**877-353-6430 or email [Reneedickins@veralloyd.org](mailto:Reneedickins@veralloyd.org)**

[www.veralloyd.org](http://www.veralloyd.org)

[www.facebook.com/vlphfs](http://www.facebook.com/vlphfs)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

**APA - Ever Heard of It?**



In the weeks and months ahead, you will be hearing a lot more about APA--the acronym for the Administrative Personnel Association of the PCUSA--because the Southwest Region of APA will meet in Little Rock October 17-19, hosted by the Arkansas Chapter.

Started by Joyce Bauer in 1976, its mission is "to offer opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This mission is accomplished by providing continuing education events for certification and occasions for fellowship, worship and spiritual nurture and prayer at both National and Regional meetings as well as seminary sponsored training events."

Bauer recognized that many support staff personnel working for Presbyterian governing bodies and in churches didn't have a background in Presbyterian history, polity or reformed theology, so she developed a method for administrative persons to be educated in those subjects and others, such as new technology, safety in the workplace, spiritual growth and discipline that are relevant and performance-enhancing.

I am thankful to have been a member of APA since 1982, supported first by First Presbyterian Church in Batesville, later by the Presbytery of Arkansas, and now by Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Over the years, it's been my privilege to meet many other administrative associates who feel a sense of call in their work for the church. APA helps develop that sense by equipping us to better understand the denomination, keep up with technology and learn from others in the unique work setting that is the church.

If you are a pastor reading this, I hope you will seriously consider sending your support staff person(s) to this event in October. If you work for the church in an administrative support role, I hope you will explore what APA has to offer. Our website is [www.pcusa-apa.org](http://www.pcusa-apa.org), where our conference brochure is posted. I'll be glad to help you learn more about it as well.

*Pam Luther*  
*President-elect, APA Southwest Region*  
501-227-0000 or [pamluther@secondpreslr.org](mailto:pamluther@secondpreslr.org)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## **Presbytery Offers Grants Through Congregational Care & Development Committee**

The Presbytery of Arkansas offers grants to those churches that need help in doing the ministry of God. These grants are for ministry, and not "brick and mortar" needs -- although if a church has a "brick and mortar" need, the CC&D Committee refers the church to the Moody Trust.

An application for grant money, and more information, can be found here: <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmPresbyteryDocuments.aspx> (look for the document titled "CC&D Small Church Grant Application Form.")

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## **Arkansas Interfaith Conference Annual Assembly**

May 23, 2013

The Arkansas Interfaith Conference will be hosting its Annual Assembly on Thursday, May 23rd from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Parham of EthicsDaily.com. The event is \$10 for lunch. Please contact the Rev. Stephen Copley at [interfaithark@aol.com](mailto:interfaithark@aol.com) or (501)374-3811 to register.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## **An Invitation to attend Presbyterian Pilgrimage #19 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Little Rock**

October 10-13, 2013

The weekend activities begin about 5:30 pm on Thursday, Oct. 10, and conclude about 5 pm Sunday, Oct. 13. Enjoy a weekend of study, worship, fun, and fellowship that will bring you closer to God!

**Moderator -- Tommy Watts**

To register, visit [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org) or contact Sandra Phillips, the Registrar at 870-688-9189. Through the Presbytery's financial support of Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage, the ARPP would like to scholarship up to five Presbyterian participants for the upcoming pilgrimage weekend. You may request up to \$200 in scholarship assistance if needed. You may indicate your need for scholarship assistance when you register.

Deadline to register for Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage #19 is September 8, 2013.

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

**Prayer List for Congregations -- 2013** can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

[Click here for the latest PW newsletter](#)

[Click here for information about the 2013 PW Synod of the Sun Gathering](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)

---

## [Presbytery Calendar](#)

### PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

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

Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SHERÉE NIECE](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [DAVID DYER](#)

[Back to the top of this email](#)



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>

### [Forward to a Friend](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to [brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org) by [kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org](mailto:kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Presbytery of Arkansas | 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd. | Little Rock | AR | 72227