



October 2014

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Taking a Risk on Love"

In February, June and last Friday and Saturday, we received generous gifts of hospitality from our friends at Lyon College, the good people of First Presbyterian in Hot Springs and in Jonesboro. Hosting a meeting of Presbytery is a significant undertaking by a host of people ranging from the congregation's leadership to the Presbytery's planning team and, especially, our Moderator and Assistant Stated Clerk. We are grateful for our colleges and congregations and our Presbytery's elected and staff support. Through their gift of welcome, all help us realize our connectedness as the body of Christ.



Today, the words, "Radical...Extravagant....Risk Taking...," come to mind. These descriptors underlie the ministry of First Presbyterian of Jonesboro, our most recent hosts. We were welcomed with the enticing aroma of Bubba Grimmer's barbecue, wafting across the recently expanded and striped parking area. The church house and grounds speak clearly of a congregation which takes care of the gifts God has provided. A communion table (pictured below) overflowing in red, orange and purple, in texture and imagination; the font, central to its sacred space beckoned us, "Come..." Visually, delightful! Down the long hall toward the pre-school, were children's sculptures and watercolors bringing to life familiar biblical passages. Throughout, attention to detail and appreciation for beauty spoke. Sensitivity, too, not a word lost in worship or the business of the council because of a newly installed sound system designed to make the aural as accessible as the visual.



When Pastor Chris Jones welcomed us to First Presbyterian, it was with the warmth and enthusiasm we've come to know in Chris. The congregation, too, seemed glad to

see us. The Sunday following our meeting, with pipers extending the call to passionate worship, First Presbyterian continued its month long celebration of 125 years of Christian witness in Jonesboro and beyond. Thanks be to God.

A few years ago, Robert Schnase, Bishop of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church, wrote, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (available in our Resource Center). They are: **radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity**. These components, Schnase points out, are characteristics of vibrant, growing congregations seeking to fulfill the mission God has placed upon them. They are certainly worth exploring and offering as our friends in Jonesboro and other faithful communities are demonstrating.

Gratefully yours,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out-of-Office Commitments

October

- 17-19 Association of Mid-Council Leaders, Louisville, Kentucky
- 19-21 General Assembly Polity Conference, Louisville, Kentucky
- 25-31 Colleague Group Cont. Ed. with Dr. Tom Boyd, Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas
- 31-Nov 1 Synod Meeting, Irving, Texas

November

- 8 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, FPC, Conway
- 9 Preach, First Presbyterian, Conway
- 10-11 COM Retreat, Ferncliff
- 13 Interfaith Arkansas, Pulaski Heights United Methodist, Little Rock
- 15 General Committee, First Presbyterian, Conway
- 16 Preach, Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock
- 17 Solar Under the Sun, Development Committee, Irving
- 20-23 Mo-Ranch Board of Trustees, Hunt, Texas
- 26-29 Thanksgiving Break

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Report From the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of

Arkansas

by David Harrison Dyer, Assistant Stated Clerk

The 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas was a meeting with a difference. Hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, the meeting began with a workshop on "Cultivating a Climate of Generosity" led by Kevin Keaton of the Board of Pensions and Sherry Kenney of the Presbyterian Foundation. [The visuals used in this workshop are on the www.presbyteryofarkansas.org web site under the 127th Stated Meeting section.]The meeting itself began at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2014 in the sanctuary of the church, called to order by the Moderator, Clare Kelley.



Kevin Keaton (left, standing) co-leads "Cultivating a Climate of Generosity"



Sherry Kenney (standing) co-leading "Cultivating a Climate of Generosity"

Teaching Elder Kade Curry, First, Searcy read Scripture, invited the council to join in the hymn "Here in This Place" and offered prayer to begin the meeting.

Then the normal opening business was conducted: The docket was adopted, the enrollment was reported and a quorum declared. Teaching Elder Chris Jones, host pastor, welcomed the presbytery, and Assistant Stated Clerk David Dyer welcomed first-time Elder Commissioners. The Moderator introduced the Presbytery Staff to the gathered council. Corresponding Members were seated and the privilege of the floor was granted. The Consent Agenda was approved, the Assistant Stated Clerk reported, and Standing Committees were appointed.

Next came the high-light of the Friday afternoon session, as Teaching Elder Robert Lowry along with the Listening/Redesign Task Force members (Teaching Elder Tasha Blackburn, Ruling Elder Julie Adkisson, Christian Educator Jeannie Ford, and Deacon Mike Szabo) presented the vision of the future presbytery structure in the "clay model" version. Four primary Mission Areas will replace the current Standing Committees, and five Regions will replace, for administrative purposes, the current eight clusters. It is a vision full of energy, including a new emphasis on youth and young adult ministries.



Robert Lowry (standing) reports to the presbytery as the other members of the Listening/Redesign Task Force listen

Following this hour-long report the presbytery conducted further business, hearing the report of the Committee on Administration from Teaching Elder Catherine Allsbury.

Teaching Elder Susan Rose with United Campus Ministry presented a wonderful visual report of the work going on in campus ministry.

Presbytery Vice-Moderator Ed Wilkinson gave the report of the General Committee. Then Teaching Elder Elizabeth Gabbard give the report of the Committee on Nominations.

There was time for several minute announcements before the presbytery recessed for the evening. A delicious and bountiful barbeque dinner, with live music and a "family reunion" atmosphere capped off the evening.

On Saturday morning the presbytery reconvened in Heritage Hall, beginning the day with a Theological Discussion led by Teaching Elder Ruskin Falls on the topic of God's covenant of the Land with Israel.



Rev. Ruskin Falls (at microphone) leads theological discussion



Participants listen and discuss God's covenant of the Land with Israel

The presbytery then processed to the sanctuary for Worship. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated and decked out for the praise of Almighty God. Teaching and Ruling Elders from Clusters 3 & 4 led the service, including Teaching Elders Chris Jones, First, Jonesboro; Al Henager, First, Heber Springs; Mike McCracken, Wynne Presbyterian; Leslie Roper, First, Batesville, and Ruling Elders Kay Coil, First, Heber Springs; Ty Hendricks, First, Searcy; Dick Freer, First, Jonesboro; and Harriet O'Neal, First, Jonesboro who was the organist. Mrs. Day Arnoult directed the choir in its inspirational music. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated and an offering benefiting the children's nutrition programs of the Good Neighbor Food Pantry in Jonesboro and the Good Samaritan Center in Searcy was received.



Rev. Kade Curry preaches during Saturday morning worship



Rev. Leslie Bethel Roper (left) and Rev. Chris Jones invite the congregation to communion

Following worship, the presbytery resumed its business agenda. A motion to reconsider the previous adoption of the budget (part of the administration committee report) and consider it as proposed, to be voted on at the February 15, 2015 Stated Meeting (128th) of presbytery was passed.

Motions from the Listening/Redesign Task Force to receive the report, adopt the new regional map, and have three additional members of the Task Force appointed was passed as well.

The report of the Committee on Ministry was given by Teaching Elder Frank LeBlanc. The most important part of their report was the adoption by the presbytery of new minimum terms of call for full-time ministers and educators at \$52,400 (\$40,400 if a manse is supplied). The call of Teaching Elder Georgia Senor to be the Designated Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bentonville was warmly approved.

With the Vice-Moderator moderating an additional report from the Committee on Nominations was received and a presentation by Teaching Elders David Reed and Marie Mainard O'Connell called our attention to the work of the Resource Center.

The Moderator resumed the chair and the council heard reports from the Committee on Mission from Teaching Elder Gordon Garlington, further reports from the Committee on Administration by TE Catherine Allsbury, and received congregational pledge cards.

After much discussion, motions were passed that, prior to any loan being taken by the Presbytery of Arkansas related to the Ferncliff pledge or any other loan, the Presbytery of Arkansas vote on the proposed loan and that the Presbytery of Arkansas secure this loan by the plan of the Administration Committee for an unsecured loan.

Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals honored those celebrating five-year anniversaries of ordination of church service. Ruling Elder Marty Shepherd handed out key chains and certificates. Also the presbytery's covenant with the Wellspring Renewal Center was reaffirmed.

The meeting concluded with the report of the Leaves of Absence Committee and additional time for minute announcements; then the Vice-Moderator offered the closing prayer and we adjourned at 12:50 p.m. Thanks be to God.

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Church Employment Opportunities in or near our Presbytery

Christian Education Director -- First Presbyterian Church of Texarkana, Arkansas is seeking a full-time Christian Education Director to oversee and develop the overall educational program of the church. The current emphasis for this position will be on development of children's ministry with some support of youth and other educational ministry. For a job description, click this link: <http://www.firstprestexarkana.org/wp->

[content/uploads/DCE.pdf](#). Resumes may be emailed to 1stpresbytk@cableone.net. For questions about the position please call either of the search committee's co-moderators: Jeff Daniels, 1-903-280-1424 or Corey Sharp, 1-903-556-7853.

Director of Youth Ministry -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church, 3520 JFK Boulevard in North Little Rock, is seeking a creative, energetic person of faith to lead its youth ministry. The position is 10 hours per week, salary negotiable, with primary focus on the church's youth group which currently meets Sundays at 5:30 p.m. We are searching for someone with a heart for youth, who with our youth and their adult sponsors will build a program that nurtures Christian faith and fellowship and includes Bible study, recreation, and service. Mission trips and participation in Presbyterian youth events and conferences are also high on our agenda. Please send resumes to the Search Committee via the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington, at ggarlington3@hotmail.com. Questions or inquiries may be addressed to him at 501-940-8008.

Director of Christian Education -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church, 3520 JFK Boulevard in North Little Rock, is searching for a creative, energetic person of faith interested in leading its ministries of Christian education for children, youth, and adults. The position is 10 hours per week, with salary and schedule negotiable. With the right individual, this position might be combined with the church's current search for a Director of Youth Ministry. Please send resumes to the Search Committee via the church's pastor, Gordon Garlington, at ggarlington3@hotmail.com. Questions or inquiries may be addressed to him at 501-940-8008.

Part Time Music Director -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to direct the chancel choir, hand bell choir, and praise band, with occasional youth/children's choir, meet with the pastor to plan music for worship, and direct all choir practices. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

Part Time Organist/Pianist -- First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas seeks a qualified person to play the organ and piano for Sunday worship and other services as needed, work with the music director, and meet with the pastor to plan music for worship. Salary, vacation, study leave, and study fund are part of the salary package.

Personnel Coordinator -- Presbyterian Village, a non-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community, is searching for a motivated candidate that is detail oriented, organized, able to multi task, proficient in time management and skilled in data entry. The ideal candidate will be great communicator, self driven, able to work independently and a team player with all levels of staff. The candidate will be very friendly with an outgoing personality and able to greet people easily. Long Term Care experience preferred but not required.

Qualified applicants should apply in person or send your resume to:
500 Brookside Drive

Little Rock, AR 72205
Email: hr@presbyvillage.com
Fax: 501-225-0849

Job Applications are located on our website: www.presbyvillage.com

Hymnals Available -- Second Presbyterian (Little Rock) has recently switched to the new Glory to God hymnals. They have 350 blue hymnals that are available free of charge. If you are interested in some (or all) of these hymnals, call Aileen Moore at 501-227-000.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--**Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard** resigned as parish associate at First, Clarksville effective August 31, 2014. She continues to serve at the University of the Ozarks.

--**Elizabeth Hardin** resigned as Commissioned Ruling Elder at First, Gurdon, effective September 9. She is a member of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village.

--**Rev. Kenny Shaw** has resigned as pastor of First, McGehee to accept the call as pastor of South Park Presbyterian Church in Fairplay, CO.

--Congratulations to **Susie and Curtis Wright** of Hot Springs on the birth of their granddaughter Ila James Wright on Sept. 11 in York, Nebraska. Proud parents are J. Tom and Meghan Wright. Susie is a retired Certified Christian Educator and moderator of presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

--Congratulations to **Kelsey and Keith Duke** of Russellville on the birth of their son Baker David Duke on Sept. 2 in Conway. Kelsey is the Director of Youth at Central Presbyterian, Russellville.

--Congratulations to **Sam and Beth Highsmith** of Little Rock on the birth of a granddaughter Maisie Casey Pitchford. Sam is a member of the presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission and is a former moderator of presbytery.

--**Bob Henson** resigned as director of youth and college ministries at First United, Fayetteville.

--**Hannah Lahodny** has resumed duties as youth director at First, Rogers.

--**Frances Bateman** is recuperating from surgery. She is a member of First, Hot Springs and a member of presbytery's General Committee.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**First, Springdale** meets at 10 a.m. Mondays with their pastor to study the lectionary passages for the next Sunday.

--**Grace Presbyterian**, Little Rock had a "Barking Lot Sale" on Oct. 2 to benefit the Humane Society of Pulaski County and then welcomed members of **Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** to the former's annual Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 5.

--**First, Siloam Springs** sponsors a John Brown University Friendship Family, in which the church connects with new international students.

--**Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay** will have a holiday bazaar on Nov. 1 with crafts, baked goods, prizes, an antique show and lunch prepared by the men's club.

--**First, Conway** held a time and talent auction after the fellowship dinner on Sept. 28 to benefit their Benevolence Fund.

--**First, Batesville** is assembling Church World Service school kits for students in Syria.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** offers recycling services to the congregation for their plastic bags and bottles, metal cans and newspapers.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** began on Oct. 1 covering a tree with caps, mittens, gloves and warm clothing for Crawford School children.

--**First, Fort Smith** hosted popular author Max Lucado on Sept. 21 as part of the King Speakers' Series.

--**First, Little Rock** members worked on their "Adopt-a-Street" project on Sept. 13.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** serves refreshments after worship and once a month shares a potluck lunch after worship.

--**First, Yellville** is forming a "Prayer Warrior Team" to pray in their homes on Friday morning for individuals listed in the worship bulletin insert and all leading worship.

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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



*** We only have 1 copy left of the 2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$13.75. ***

PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas. Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email revruss@gmail.com will be glad to answer your questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEBSITES YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators published this list last month. Many but not all of these provide samples to YOUR Resource Center if you'd like a hands-on preview. May you use these reliable websites to enhance your local ministries.

www.pcusa.org

pcusa.org/webelieve features curriculum for children, tweens, and younger youth

pcusa.org/faithquestions offers 4-6 week mini courses designed for use with high school students and begin with real questions kids ask. Suggestions for movie, music, and media to support learning are also offered, and a coffeehouse version of each lesson is available.

pcusa.org/beingreformed for adults. Topics include theology, Bible studies, spiritual practices, and

newsy topics. Unpack the texts, connect with the learner's spiritual life, and seek implications for action. pcusa.org/presentword is the long-running Uniform Bible dated series for adults.

<http://www.informedteens.org/INformed/index2.html> is a PC(USA) related site which provides downloadable resources for adolescent development with topics like parent-teen communication, practicing faith on the athletic field, body image and the like.

presbyyouth.org features downloadable quarterly curriculum for tweens, younger youth and older youth with easy to use lessons that are age appropriate, scripturally based and rooted in the Reformed tradition.

www.thethoughtfulchristian.com is a portal for downloadable study resources for adults and youth and a virtual store to discounted books and PC(USA) curriculum. On Nov. 1 it becomes

www.pcusastore.com

www.feastingcurriculum.com shows a downloadable, lectionary-based curriculum from the award-winning Feasting on the Word commentary series for children, tweens, multi-age, youth, young adult and adults.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT beginning November 30

--Why not revisit the excitement of Vacation Bible School during Advent? "**A Night in Bethlehem: A Hands-On Holy Land Experience**" (Acc. #MK9583) kit includes marketplace shop ideas, director manual, music and clip art CD, family resources sample pack and outreach tools.

--"**Abingdon Worship Photos Volume 1: Projection Backgrounds for Advent and Christmas**" (Acc. #DVD9059) contains 50 worship-themed photos for use in multimedia presentations that can be customized by adding your scripture, sermon notes, announcements and program ideas.

--A Pre-Advent study book "**Hurry Less Worry Less at Christmastime: Having the Holiday Season You Long For**" (Acc. #BK8933) helps busy people learn to celebrate more joyfully, peacefully and deeply.

--For children "**Holy Moly: 4 Stories for Advent and Christmas**" (Acc. #DVD9792) includes a leader pack and sheets for pre-readers and readers plus the animated stories of the Annunciation, Mary and Elizabeth, Jesus is born and The Magi.

--For children "**Why do we call it Christmas?**" (Acc. #DVD9607 or 9778) from the Veggie Tales creator, asks and answers in 60 minutes the questions of what cutting down trees, hanging stockings and Santa Claus have to do with Jesus' birthday?

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS

Continuing this month I am ordinarily in the Resource Center only on Tuesday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Self-service hours in the Resource Center are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday. If these latter days are the best for your visits, I'll gladly gather resources for you to pick up and as usual, I'll mail resources to patrons on the days I'm here.

REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG! Just go to the 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)

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Important Youth Ministry Dates

Please mark your calendar with these important dates for the year!

Youth Advisory Team Fall Meeting -- Nov. 1
Youth at Presbytery (U. of the Ozarks) -- Feb. 20-21
Sr. High Youthquake (Ferncliff) -- March 13-15
Jr. High Jubilee trip to Mo Ranch -- July 5-9
Montreat Youth Conference trip -- July 26-Aug. 1

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

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

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education.)

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Faith and Grief Luncheons to Begin in November in Little Rock



A Ministry of Compassion and Connection

Faith and Grief Luncheons to Begin in November at Second Presbyterian Church

When a loved one dies, one of the most common early reactions is an intense yearning, a sense that part of you is missing, and a hunger to have the person back. Sharing stories often provides solace and helps ease the heartbreak. Second church is providing a place to share those stories.

Beginning in November, on the third Tuesday of every month, a Faith and Grief Luncheon will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Second Hall. People of all faiths are welcome to come.

Participants will experience:

- ❖ a supportive community of persons who have experienced the death of a loved one
- ❖ comfort through scripture and prayers
- ❖ encouragement through personal stories
- ❖ hope in sharing your feelings and experiences.

Registration for the November 18 luncheon has begun. If you are interested in receiving more information about Faith and Grief Ministry, contact Karen Akin at 501-227-0000 or karenakin@secondpreslr.org, or go on line to www.faithandgrief.org.

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Presbytery Mission Trip to Conway, AR

Who: Anyone (age 18 and older) is invited to go on this trip.

When: We will leave on Sunday, Nov. 9 and return Friday, Nov. 14

What: While specifics are still unknown, most likely we will be doing clean-up and light construction assistance work.

Where: We will be working in the area of Conway, AR

Why: We want to help rebuild and restore hope to the people of the Conway area.

Cost: The cost is \$20/day or \$120/week. We will be housed at First Presbyterian, Conway

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:

October 29, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Susie Wright (501-262-9417)

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Rev. Douglas E. Neel speaks on "Food and Feasts of Jesus" at University of the Ozarks -- October 28th

On October 28th, **Rev. Douglas E. Neel** will be at the University of the Ozarks to speak about the food and feasts of Jesus. Rev. Neel, an Episcopal priest in Colorado, wrote a book on this topic after spending years researching the ancient food culture of Palestine and the feasts and meals Jesus would have enjoyed. He believes that understanding first-century food production and cuisine results in a much clearer understanding of many of the parables and teachings of Jesus.

That night you can enjoy a first-century meal in the Ozarks cafeteria between 5:00 and 6:30 for \$8 (other foods will be available as well). The presentation will follow at 7:00 in the Rogers Conference Center and is free and open to the public. 415 North College Avenue, Clarksville, AR Contact 479.979.1236 or ddvoracek@ozarks.edu

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**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

What Is the PDA Call Center?

Q: I have heard that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a national call center at Ferncliff. I have trouble visualizing this "center" and what it does. Please help.

A: I'm glad you have already heard about the call center. While you might think there's an operator by a phone bank a la Lily Tomlin, that is not the case. Instead we have two highly competent PDA staff members, Eden Carroll and Cameron Stevens, who provide a comprehensive scheduling service for volunteer work teams and volunteer host sites around the country.

Currently Eden and Cameron manage the calendars for 37 host sites, from Jamaica, NY, to Joplin, MO, to Boulder and Loveland, CO. (Churches in the Presbytery of Arkansas have also offered to host work teams for the Vilonia and Mayflower recovery. More information will be provided as that story develops.) When churches, college or youth groups, or other teams want to help people rebuild, they can call 866/732-6121 to get information or schedule their trip. Churches who serve as host sites submit their hosting calendar to Eden and Cameron who then schedule the work teams and coach the churches throughout the hosting process.

The call center provides another wonderful ministry supported by your One Great Hour of Sharing and other gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

--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/firmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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Register for Vera Lloyd's Turkey Trot 5K



Register now for Vera Lloyd's 3rd annual Turkey Trot 5K and one mile kids' fun run on Saturday, November 8, at 9 a.m. in Monticello. The course begins and ends at Vera Lloyd's children's home in Monticello. Learn more and register at VLturkeytrot.com.

Funds raised from the event support the Transitional Living Program, which helps young adults aging out of foster care reach employment and education goals and master independent living skills.

Church members make Christmas happen for children

Vera Lloyd needs help from people like you to make Christmas happen for children and youth on our campus who won't experience Christmas without you.

Vera Lloyd staff gathers wish lists from youth and provides lists to churches and volunteers who purchase gifts and bring them to the Monticello children's home campus or our Little Rock corporate office. If you are interested in bringing Christmas to children at Vera Lloyd, please contact Melissa Hendricks, Director of Development, at 501-666-8195.

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PC(USA) Needs Your Help With "*The Confirmation Project*"

The Confirmation Project seeks to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices (CEP) in five Protestant denominations in the United States are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth. Strengthening discipleship includes nurturing faith in Jesus Christ and facilitating youth encounters with Christian traditions (Scripture, creeds, confessions, and practices) to support lifelong Christian vocation.

The five denominations in this project include: the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church. This project is funded by the Lilly Foundation, Inc. and seeks to provide ministry leaders within the Christian church examples of strategies and practices that are effective in helping young Christians grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

By taking the time to fill out the survey, you can help us better understand the depth, breadth, and effectiveness of confirmation and equivalent practices in the PC(USA). We look forward to learning from you and your ministry!

To learn more, visit their website at www.theconfirmationproject.com.

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Synod of the Sun Sponsors Mission Convocation

The Synod of the Sun is organizing a Mission Convocation.

The Convocation will be held Saturday, November 8th at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX. The theme of the event is "Mission Possible--There is No Box." Keynote speaker is Vera White, with Bill Lawser giving a presentation on "Asset Mapping."

The early registration fee is \$15 thru Nov. 3rd. For more details, [click here for a full brochure](#).

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2014 can be found [here](#).

Prayer List for Congregations -- 2015 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).

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#) (Fill-in Youth Ministry Coordinator [MARY SHAW](#))

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

Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [SHERÉE NIECE](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Our vision is ***to make visible the body of Christ*** (Acts II).

We are composed of 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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