



July 2015

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Have You Answered the Call to Health?"

Dear friends,

An email last week raised an important question, "How's the health of the Presbytery of Arkansas?" Often, the health of mid-councils is judged by the vitality of participation by member congregations and their leaders, by New Worshiping Community starts, by mission initiatives and congregations growing both numerically and in the capacity to undertake new challenges, by either a sense of harmony or discord. But this question was differently directed. It was more personal and applicable to every person whose medical coverage is provided by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.).



Stew Beltz, Director of Health and Welfare Services for the Board of Pensions wrote, "Each day we're reminded of the need to protect and cherish our personal health and the health of our families, loved ones, and broader community of faith.

The Board of Pensions' Call to Health initiative is one way we can each demonstrate our respect and gratitude for God's gift of life and support our obligation to care for ourselves and those we love and serve.

Last year, 38.2% of plan members in the Presbytery of Arkansas completed Call to Health. This compares to 43.4 percent of all Medical Plan members nationwide in 2014.

This year, the goal is 50 percent or more. With your help, we can achieve it! In fact, last year 75 percent of members in Stockton Presbytery led the way in answering the Call to Health."

The good news is that we have until September 30, 2015, to fulfill the requirements of the Call to Health. I hope you will join me in reaching and exceeding the goal of 50 percent participation. Remember that the annual Wellness Checkup is provided at no charge to you and is a key component of the Call the Health. Completion of the Call to Health is a major step in preventive health care and addressing health concerns in a timely manner. Additionally, successful completion qualifies participants for a 1/2 percent reduction of health related deductible expenses for 2016. For more information, please go to Call to Health at the Board of Pensions

website. You may also wish to set up a My Active Health account, the personal health tracking site provided by the Board of Pensions.

Let's turn our good intentions into action. Call your physician and set up a Wellness Check and complete at least two of the other health care actions before September 30.

In the meantime, good health to you.

Gratefully,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

July

13-14 Solar Under the Sun Board, Ferncliff

19 Preach and Lead Worship, FPC, Little Rock

28 Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, FPC, Conway

31 Colleague Gathering - Leona, Texas

August

05 Meeting with Board of Pensions Representative

06-07 Synod Mid-Year Committees, Irving, Texas

08 The PLACE, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock

11 Honduran Ministry Meeting, FUPC, Fayetteville

13 Interfaith Arkansas, FUMC, Little Rock

15 Committee on Administration--Budget Hearings

20-21 Executive Presbyter Forum, Irving, Texas

22 General Committee, FPC, Conway

29 Mission Committee

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Church Employment Opportunities in or near our Presbytery

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.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry -- First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas is praying for a proactive leader with a love for youth and young adults and a shepherd's heart, a mature faith consistent with the Reformed Christian tradition, personal integrity, and an enthusiastic sense of humor and fun combined with a passion for teaching and forming youth and young adults to be committed followers of Jesus. Focus is 80% youth ministry and 20% college and young adult ministry. This is a full-time position with a generous continuing education allowance and healthcare. Complete position description and contact information available at <http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx>. The position will begin as soon as possible in 2015.

Choirmaster/Organist -- Arkadelphia First Presbyterian Church seeks a Choirmaster/Organist. If interested, please contact Adrienne Queen for more information: adriennecamillequeen@gmail.com or 910-280-8232.

First Presbyterian Church--Bentonville is seeking teachers for their *My Friends & Me* Daycare -- **Full-time Lead Teacher (2-year-olds)** for 2015-2016 school year, and **Nursery Workers** (Sunday mornings and other occasional weekday Bible studies and church events). For more information, contact Mrs. Z Cooper at 479-273-5450 or zkcooper@fpcbentonville.org.

Other Opportunities

Counseling Center Clinical Director (Monticello, AR) -- Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services is seeking a Clinical Director for a new nonprofit counseling center in Monticello, AR, which will serve youth, adults and families. A detailed description of the position is available [here](#). You may send a letter of interest and resume to: Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, 1501 N. University Ave., Suite 345, Little Rock, AR 72207 or email to donnamahurin@veralloyd.org.

Pastor to Host Trip to Germany & Austria -- Kirk in the Pines pastor, Bill Bailey, will host a 12-day tour to the Best of Germany and Austria, Nov. 2-13. Fellow Presbyterians and their friends are invited to join the group visiting these beautiful countries. Destinations include Berlin, Wittenberg (Luther sites), Leipzig, Marbug, Frankfort, Rothenburg, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich and more. Reservations are being accepted on a first received basis. For a brochure with the itinerary and more information, email kirktour@gmail.com.

Manager of Administration--Office of the General Assembly -- The Office of the General Assembly in Louisville, KY seeks a Manager of Administration. This position will provide administrative leadership in the areas of human resources, financial management and policy. A detailed description of the position and contact information is available [here](#).

Free Blue Presbyterian Hymnals -- First Presbyterian in Pine Bluff has copies of the "Blue" 1990 edition of the Presbyterian Hymnal available for donation to a church or other group. For details, contact Rev. Susie Wiggins at 870-534-7831.

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People and Church News

News of Our Congregations

--**First, Hot Springs** newsletter encourages every adult to get down on eye level with at least one child every Sunday morning at church and ask what the child did on Saturday, then tell child what the adult did.

--**Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** book club will meet on Tuesday, July 28 and then go out to lunch together. They are offering Vacation Bible School on Sunday mornings this year.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** schedules Bible Study on Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 followed by choir practice from 3:30 to 4:30.

--**First, Yellville** has set their 7th annual Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction for July 24, to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** congregation offered their annual trip to AR Travelers Baseball Game on June 21.

--**Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock** will host the National 4th Day Training of Pilgrimage participants on July 17-18.

--**Laotian Ministry**, which meets at First, Fort Smith, cooked for the First Sunday Supper prepared to feed transient local people on July 5.

--**First, Arkadelphia** encourages members to "Adopt-an-Area" around the church buildings and grounds to care for and improve.

--**First, Newport** Sunday Bible Study Class met at a new local diner on June 14 to show their presence in the community and to support local businesses.

--**First, Prairie Grove** pastor invited church members to visit Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center the week in June when she was chaplain for summer camp and asked groups in the congregation to prepare buckets for flood disaster survivors to be delivered to Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff.

--**First, Dardanelle** had a potluck dinner on July 12 to honor three veterans with quilts of valor.

--**First and Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** cooperate in serving children in the Kosmic Kids Lunch Program this summer.

--**First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville** has been re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the

PC(USA) Environmental Ministries through Feb., 2016.

--**Central, Fort Smith** hosts Ozark Bronze handbell ensemble's concert of movie theme songs at 3 PM on Saturday, July 25th.

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. and Mrs. Frank LeBlanc** on the death of his mother Mona Rae Frederick LeBlanc in Baton Rouge on July 13th. Frank is pastor of Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock, and a member of Committee on Ministry.

--**Rev. Dennis Ritchie**, pastor of Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, is on sabbatical through August 8.

--**Rev. Larry Mitchell**, pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City, is dealing with heart problems and appreciates prayers.

--**Bill Bush**, commissioned ruling elder serving at First, Gravette, is recovering from an automobile accident he suffered in Tulsa.

--**Revs. Linda Whitworth-Reed and David Reed** have moved from their apartment in Little Rock to their home in Hot Springs Village.

--Resourcing Director **NiAnn Thompson** has moved from Malvern back to her hometown of Hot Springs.

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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.



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.

--We have six copies of the "**2015-2016 Presbyterian Planning Calendar**" for sale in the presbytery office if you have run out or need more. The price is \$15, and mailing is free.

--RAVE REVIEWS

--Ruling Elder Marian Dyer at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock reports on the book "**A New**

Kind of Christianity" (Acc. #BK9835) that "it generated a lot of good, lively discussion and was a good choice for an (each Sunday) stand-alone study for the summer."

-Another success story from the summer comes from my predecessor as Resource Center director Carol Edington who happily used the "**Praying in Color**" workshop DVD, book and journal (Acc. #DVD8920) and "**Praying in Color Kids' Edition**" Teaching DVD and book (Acc. #BK/DVD 9660) by Sybil MacBeth for an inter-generational multi-Sunday activity in her out-of-state church.

-My colleagues in other Resource Centers have been discussing resources for assessing spiritual gifts and recommend "**Spirit Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts**" (Acc. #BK7155) by Patricia D. Brown with participant workbook and leader's resources, including a spiritual gifts survey, personal inventory, worksheets, and charts.

IN THE NEWS

--In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling, churches may want to discuss same-gender marriage. A helpful resource is the seven-part DVD series produced and shared by Second Presbyterian, Little Rock with YOUR Resource Center earlier this year and entitled "**Marriage, the Bible, and the Presbyterian Church.**" Topics range from an introduction to the issues, to two parts on the Bible and marriage, to in defense of traditional marriage, to why same sex marriage is important, to legal issues and voicing perspectives.

LOOKING AHEAD

--Within a month, public schools will resume classes and then or shortly thereafter, our educational programs in individual congregations will gear up. Are you ready? Now is the time to preview resources for the nursery, children, youth, young and mature adults, special/short-term or seasonal studies, training for ruling elders and deacons, and much more. Partner with YOUR Resource Center to look at possibilities for then right now! We are here to help you.

This year I will be working each Tuesday and Wednesday (7:45-5:15) and can easily be reached other weekdays by email, text or cell phone (501.337.2360).

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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Thank You For Your Benevolence Donations!

The Presbytery of Arkansas is blessed to receive Benevolence donations from our member

churches. Through June 30, 2015, here is a list of the churches (and one individual) that have contributed to the mission of the Presbytery of Arkansas (listed alphabetically by city). Thank you! (Please note this list does not include churches that support specific missionaries, or PC(USA) seasonal offerings (such as Joy Gift) or special causes (disaster response, Cents-a-bility, etc.).

First--Arkadelphia	West End--Arkadelphia	First--Beebe
Presbyterian Church in Bella Vista	First--Benton	First--Bentonville
Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals	First--Conway	First--Dardanelle
First--Eureka Springs	Kirk of the Hills--Fairfield Bay	First United--Fayetteville
Graham Memorial--Forrest City	Central--Fort Smith	First--Fort Smith
First--Gurdon	First--Harrison	First--Heber Springs
First--Helena	Holiday Island Presbyterian Church	Holly Grove Presbyterian Church
Faith--Horseshoe Bend	First--Hot Springs	Westminster--Hot Springs
Kirk in the Pines--Hot Springs Village	First--Huntsville	First--Jacksonville
First--Jonesboro	First--Little Rock	Grace--Little Rock
Pulaski Heights--Little Rock	Trinity--Little Rock	Westminster--Little Rock
First--Lonoke	First--Malvern	First--Marianna
First--McGehee	First--Mena	First--Morrilton
First--Mountain Home	First--Newport	Park Hill--North Little Rock
Mount Vernon--Pea Ridge	Central--Pine Bluff	First--Pine Bluff
First--Prairie Grove	First--Rogers	First--Siloam Springs
First--Springdale	First--Van Buren	First--Walnut Ridge
Wynne Presbyterian Church	Rev. Lance Jones	

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Bryan Bond Installed at First--Van Buren



On Sunday, June 14th, Bryan Bond was installed as pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Van Buren, Arkansas. Pictured above from left to right are members of the installation commission: TE Bill Galbraith (General Presbyter), TE Tasha Blackburn, TE Bryan Bond, RE Dawn Dvoracek, TE Phil Butin, TE Elizabeth Gabbard, RE Ed Wilkinson (Moderator of the Presbytery), RE Rusty Myers.

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Update From General Presbyter Search Committee

The search committee for a new General Presbyter is hard at work. Our intention is to have someone selected in time for the October 9-10 meeting of presbytery. After much prayer and hard work, we have a Ministry Information Form up on the denomination's Opportunity Search page. It can be viewed through a search at <https://clc.pcusa.org/asp/OpportunitySearch.aspx>.

Already, we are receiving applicants from across the country. We are open to any geographic location including our own backyard. If you are either a Ruling Elder or a Teaching Elder in this presbytery and feel a sense of call to this ministry, please apply. For more information on how to do this, contact Jeff Price at pastorjeffprice@gmail.com.

All applicants will receive a set of supplemental questions which should be completed by August 7. No applicants will be taken after that time.

Please join us as we pray for God's discernment in selecting the man or woman who will be our next General Presbyter.

Jeff Price, moderator

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Save the Date for Pathways, August 8!
Second Presbyterian, Little Rock. Watch for info!

Youth from all congregations are welcome to attend!
Full information packets and Registration information can be found at
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/documents/YouthCouncil/Summer%20Trips%202015%20-%20Info%20and%20Registration%20forms.pdf>

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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The P.L.A.C.E -- August 8th -- registration deadline approaching!

Register now for The P.L.A.C.E.! The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment. Saturday, August 8th at 2nd Pres in Little Rock. Not only will you be able to choose 3 workshops from a list of 30, but there is something for every age group in your congregation. Preschool child care, Elementary Mini-Ferndcliff in Bible Village rooms, and the national youth leadership training event called PATHWAYS in the youth house. Save the date and plan to bring a van full from your congregation. Registration is now open online, and price goes up after July 29th. Congregational packets were distributed at the June 6th Presbytery meeting.

For a flyer with more information, [click here](#).

For online information and online registration, [click here](#).

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How to Do a Presbyterian Fire Drill -- Decently and in Order

Q: A fire drill when? Before or during worship??? That'll mess up our worship service . . .

A: Yes! Fire can start any time of day, including during worship. So yes, plan a fire drill. For your first drill, we suggest announcing the drill ahead of time; the next time, don't announce. September, since it is a month of high attendance, is a good time to drill.

Before you drill, consult with your local fire department for guidance. Then train and drill elders, deacons, and ushers by practicing evacuating and assisting people with limited mobility. (Perhaps your teenage members will role play people who need assistance.) If you have Sunday school classes and/or a nursery in session, include teachers and attendants in the training and in the actual drill.

When the leaders are comfortable with the evacuation process, drill with the worshipping congregation.

Yes, a fire drill will change that worship service-and prevent a real disaster if you ever do

have a fire in your sanctuary. (Photo below shows fire burning the Odalen Presbyterian Church outside Edinburg, ND, June 21, 2007; photo by David Monson.)



--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparation and Response Committee. Additional information is available at <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmDisasterResponse.aspx>

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Registration is now open for Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage #23- -October 15-18 at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Are you looking for a boost in your faith journey? Consider attending the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage to be held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center from October 15 through 18, 2015. The pilgrimage weekend will begin at 5:30 pm on Thursday, and will

end about 5 pm on Sunday. There will be plenty of worship, prayer, food, study, fellowship, and much more. The cost to attend the weekend is \$200. Scholarships are available if you need financial aid.

Applications are available on the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage website www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org.

You may also pick up participant applications from the Presbytery Office in Little Rock. If you have any questions, you may contact the Registrar at ARPC.registrar@gmail.com

The deadline for applications is October 5, 2015.

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Presbyterian Women News

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas have been very busy! They have been packing shoeboxes with useful items for homeless people, a shawl ministry, disaster relief efforts in Vilonia and Mayflower, a used book sale, an American Red Cross cookie drive, and other events. To read the full write-up of all these happenings, [click here](#).

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New Region Map

The Presbytery Restructure Task Force presented a new map of Regions for the Presbytery of Arkansas. This new map was approved by a vote of the presbytery in October 2014. For a list of the churches in each region, [click here](#). For a map with the new regions, [click here](#).

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Presbytery Welcomes Nomination Suggestions

The Committee on Nominations asks for your suggestions for names of people who would be good candidates to serve on presbytery committees. You may submit these names by completing the Nominations Form at the following link: [2015 Nominations Form](#).

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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 [ROBERT LOWRY](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk [DAVID DYER](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)

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

Treasurer ["BUZZ" ROBERTS](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [ED WILKINSON](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [CLARE KELLEY](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [LACY SELLARS](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a council 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, a new church development and one ministry 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>