



March 2016

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Bridging Traditions to Visions"

By Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

Last week my wife and I were invited to the home of an elderly woman who lives in Little Rock. This was our first social outing in Little Rock outside of the Presbyterian flock (she is a committed member of a local Baptist church). We met her while having dinner with our realtor, who introduced us. At the end of the conversation that night she indicated that she would have us over to her home. The woman is an artist and the first part of our evening was spent touring her home and looking at the various pieces of art she had created over the years. She had painted pictures, made quilts and blankets, and created beautifully painted china in her own kiln. After the home and artwork tour, we sat down in her living room and listened to her play the piano. It was a wonderful evening that reminded me of a by-gone era that I could remember from my early childhood. The living room was arranged somewhat like what my great-grandmother would have called a parlor. We sat on antique furniture that I was hesitant to sit on due to its age. The tick tock of various clocks could be steadily heard when the piano wasn't playing. There was no television to be seen anywhere in the home except in her bedroom. We were served dessert on fine china that she had hand painted.



As I listened to the piano, I reflected that my own children knew nothing about the experience I was having. I imagine that they might be irritated by the constant ticking of the clocks and the interruptions of quarterly sounds on the hour. They don't even own a watch as they have always gotten the time from their cell phones. They could not imagine the main room of a home without a television. They would much prefer to listen to music through headphones than from a piano. The woman was proud of her artwork, which included portraits she had painted of her grandchildren. I asked her if any of them had shown interest in her artwork and she shook her head "no". She knows that her artwork may go to someone else due to their lack of interest.

I reflected on the experience and the link to very different cultural experiences in my own lifetime. I could tell how comfortable she was in her home and I was comfortable there as well because it brought back memories of people and experiences in my childhood. Yet, in knowing my own children, I could understand why her grandchildren were not as comfortable with what she loved.

I thought of the challenges we face in the church as we have buildings, styles of worship and ways of relating to each other that may not be as readily embraced by the younger generation today. How can we adapt and change in reaching out to a younger generation without totally sacrificing the beloved traditions from the past that we feel are so valuable? I am hopeful that our five ministry areas in the organizational structure of the presbytery will be able to help wrestle with that question and others.

I am thankful for all of you who agreed to serve in these areas. Our committees have begun to meet and are facing challenging work as they strive to bridge past traditions to future visions. We do this in a time of diminishing financial resources.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be partnered with each of you in ministry here in the Presbytery of Arkansas. All of you will be in my prayers as we wind down our Lenten journey and prepare to celebrate the wonderful news of Easter on March 27. May your conclusion of Lent, observance of Holy Week and celebration of Easter be blessed!

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Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery

First Presbyterian Church--Bentonville is seeking a **Director of Children and Youth Ministries** to lead the young people of their church as they grow in faith and service as followers of Jesus Christ. For more information, visit their website at www.fpcbentonville.org. Qualified candidates may submit a resume and references to David Hill at dvlhill@yahoo.com. For more information, [click here](#).

Administrative Assistant -- Park Hill Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock seeks an individual who is a self-starter with communication and organizational skills and experience with Quickbooks, payroll, bookkeeping, and taxes . Website experience is a plus. The position is Monday through Friday, 25 hours per week, with the schedule adjustable to accommodate a parent with school aged children. Please send resumes and references to parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net or fax 501-753-0325.

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People and Church News

News of Our Congregations

--A child at **Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** requested a birthday lunch with her church

family, and the Fellowship Committee will sponsor a potluck on March 13 after morning worship with birthday cake provided by the family. Instead of gifts, the child asked the congregation to bring pet food donations for local animal shelters.

--**First, Siloam Springs** will have the Passover Seder meal on March 9.

--**First, Hot Springs** plans a study on alcoholism and drug addiction on March 12.

--**Mountainburg Presbyterian** men cooked and youth serve a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** held their annual Valentine banquet on Feb. 14 as a fundraiser for youth summer activities.

--**Graham Memorial, Forrest City** held a soup and salad meal on Ash Wednesday, followed by the imposition of ashes.

--**First, Arkadelphia** is holding a Lenten Bible study every Wednesday night during the season.

--**First, Fort Smith** began a new Book Club in 2016.

--**Second Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted Wednesdays Together from Feb. 17 through March 9 around the theme "Experiencing Lent through the Arts."

--**First, Bentonville** designated March 13 as new member Sunday, for their reception by Session and welcome into worship.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** is preparing 100 Easter baskets for children at Head Start.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** communications committee began a bulletin board for displaying business cards to encourage doing business with fellow and sister church members.

--**Westminster, Little Rock** Session voted to assist **Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** in hosting the presbytery meeting on June 4.

--**First, Mena** will host the Children's Violin Recital this spring, with the pastor blessing the event, about 100 family members attending and Presbyterian Women hosting the reception afterwards.

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** will host their spring speaker Dr. Wallace McKenzie, LSU professor emeritus, on April 28-29, speaking on "The Hymn: In Church and Beyond," a history of hymns.

--**First, Huntsville** plans a 7 a.m. sunrise service, 8 a.m. celebration breakfast and 9 a.m. Easter worship service on March 27.

--**First, Batesville** announces Holy Week prayer stations and flowering of the cross on Easter Sunday.

--**West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia** members were guests of First, Arkadelphia at their Family Night Supper on March 2.

--**First, Alma** will join the joint Palm Sunday evening service. **Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith** will host the regional Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m.

--**First United, Fayetteville** will be led in worship on March 13 by the United Campus Ministry students at UofA, Fayetteville.

--**First, Van Buren** will be installing vinyl siding and repairing the wooden exterior of Fellowship Hall this spring in anticipation of their centennial on Feb. 12, 2017.

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to Certified Christian Educator **Jeannie Ford** and husband Collins Andrews on the death of his mother Martha Andrews in Pine Bluff on Feb. 26. Her service was held on March 4 at First Presbyterian, Pine Bluff, where she was a life-long member. Jeannie is church educator at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.

--Christian sympathy to **Linda Castleman**, ruling elder and church secretary at First, Clarksville, on the unexpected death of her husband Lynn on March 1. His service was on March 5 at the church.

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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Wednesday, 7:45 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.

--It's the time of the year when many churches elect those who will serve in the ordered ministries of deacon or ruling elder. Following that election comes the time of training and preparation when each should receive the new "**Book of Order 2015-2017**" (part II of the PCUSA Constitution) which is available from Presbyterian Distribution Services in regular print, large print or downloadable file.

ARE SPECIAL SPEAKERS COMING TO YOUR CHURCH? SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

The Resource Center Advisory Board, which oversees YOUR Resource Center, is trying to gather information on special lecture series or guest speakers coming to congregations through this year. The hope is to compile a list of dates, locations, and topics open to visitors from beyond your congregations so that in our connecional church others might benefit from the educational opportunities offered nearby during Lent, this summer or fall. Please send your information to niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org, giving name, phone, address and city of your church; date, time and location of the special educational opportunity; and name, credential and topic of the speaker. We will publicize these events in The Banner through May and then in addition, will create a brochure for distribution at the June presbytery meeting so these opportunities may be shown in one place for your planning convenience.

RAVE REVIEWS

"**Taize': That Little Springtime**" is a 57 minute DVD shot on location in France to glimpse the 80 Christian men from different cultures and traditions who comprise the ecumenical community of Taize, founded in 1940 and since then visited by thousands of mostly young adults. DVD shows their Bible study, small group discussion, prayer, silence and the well-known Taize' music. Rev. Liz Lindsey of Forrest City, until recently serving churches at Newport and Brinkley, judged it very well done and quite moving.

She also gave high marks to "**Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Tickle on the Church's Next Rummage Sale**" (Acc. #DVD9616). This 6-session study features a 10-15 minute video presentation by Tickle and then filmed interaction with a small group and is accompanied by a participant's workbook. Topics include Emergence 101, Where now is the authority?, 20th century and emergence, gifts from other times, how then shall we live and hallmarks of emergence. She contends that great upheavals occur every 500 years for Western culture and Christianity. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500s, the next is now.

BE PREPARED FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY!

WILL YOU HAVE VISITING CHILDREN AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE EASTER MESSAGE?

Plan to have one of these videos or books on hand! DVD **"How Can I Celebrate Passover? A Young Christian's Introduction to the Seder"** (Acc. #DVD8789) for children 5 to 10 years old, this 25 minute DVD combines live-action puppets, illustrations and 3D computer animation to show how a young Christian can learn the significance of the ancient feast of Passover in the knowledge of Jesus as Savior. Passover is also the theme of the 23-minute video **"The Bedbug Bible Gang's Passover Potluck"** (Acc. #VC7836). For a longer or multipart look at Holy Week, choose **"Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible: The Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection"** (Acc. #VC7082) narrated by Charlton Heston. **"Jesus: Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem"** (Acc. #VC7137) is a 30-minute animated story of his arrival, expelling the money changers and teaching on the greatest commandments. The Great Bible Discovery Series combining live action with storybook animation, ending in a quiz to summarize learning presents the 40-minute **"Discovering an Empty Tomb"** covering all of Holy Week through Easter. **"The Jesus Series Read and Share DVD Bible: Easter"** (Acc. #DVD9790) is 30 minutes look at Jesus' last week on earth with fun animals and detailed scenery. Finally **"The Legend of the Three Trees: A Classic Folktale"** (Acc. #DVD9779) tells of three distinct trees with unique hopes, dreams and aspirations, privileged to interact with Jesus during his life.

FOR YOUTH **"The Last Supper"** (Acc. #VC6106) filmed and dramatized on authentic locations in the Holy Land and the Middle East depicting Passover, and Palm Sunday through Holy Thursday is 33 minutes long. Use the book **"Destination Easter! Lenten Programs & Practices for Youth"** (Acc. #BK8081) in Sunday School, mid-week or Sunday night studies and experiment with practices of faith such as Peter's walk, Palm bouquets, An Agape Feast, A Footwashing Service. A book **"Mission: Easter, Youth Programs & Ideas for Lent"** (Acc. #BK8759) includes Bible studies, Bible dictionary, seasonal dramas and worship ideas so youth may better understand the traditions, beliefs, and practices of this holy season.

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 new Church and Its Mission Area)

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Arkansas Pilgrimage to be held April 28 - May 1, 2016

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 April 28 through May 1, 2016. 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 from our Scholarship and Endowment Fund. Also, if anyone is interested in contributing to the Scholarship and Endowment Fund, information is available at the website below.

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 April 18, 2016.

(Pilgrimage receives funding from Presbytery's new Church and Its Mission Area.)

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

All Sr. High students and their adult advisors are invited to join us at Sr. High Youthquake!

Presbytery of Arkansas Sr. High Youthquake 2016
April 1-3 at Ferncliff Camp

Re-ignite!



*In the same way, let
your light shine before
others, that they may
see your good deeds
and glorify your
Father in Heaven.*

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

All 9th-12th graders and their Adult Advisors invited!!

\$95 per youth or Adult Advisor

\$65 per Leader Corps (18-22 yrs.)

Group Registrations due (postmarked) March 18

Registration is done through churches! Contact your church to sign up. More information can be found at www.presbyteryofarkansas.org. Questions? Contact SHYQ Director Loretta Mansell at themansells@cox.net or Britton Varn, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery, at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

Also, please note that APRIL 15 is the deadline to register for the Presbytery's youth summer trips to Mo Ranch and Montreat! Please make sure your youth know about these amazing opportunities! All churches are invited to send youth. Partial scholarships are available! Please contact britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org for more info!

Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch -- July 9-14

Montreat Youth Conference -- July 23-30

Trip information and registration forms can be found at:
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

For other important dates in 2016, [click here for a brochure!](#)

**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 new Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults.)

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Disaster Prep: Does Your Church Have a Bucket List?

Well if not, we think it is high time you get one -- so we'd like to help you get started!

Below is a Bucket List so your church can help us fill 100 Emergency Cleanup Buckets needed by Church World Service to help families whose homes have been flooded. We have 100 empty buckets and lids to give out. We hope each church will take at least one and maybe several. Fill your bucket(s) before our next presbytery meeting on June 4th when you can bring it back, along with \$2/bucket to cover cost of shipping, and take one thing off your Bucket List! (You may also deliver your bucket(s) directly to Ferncliff.)

- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
 - One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
 - One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
 - One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
 - One package of 48-50 clothespins
 - Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
 - Five dust masks
 - Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
 - One pair work gloves
 - 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. Thank you!

--This message is brought to you by the Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparedness and Response Sub-Committee of the Church and Its Mission Area. Additional information is available at

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

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Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas invite you to their Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. For a brochure with more information (including hotel reservation details) [click here](#).

(Presbyterian Women receives funding through the presbytery's annual budget.)

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Mark Your Calendar for Arkansas Gives



Support your
Presbyterian Ministries
during ArkansasGives 2016

Go to www.ArkansasGives.org on **Thursday, April 7**
to donate to any or all of these Presbyterian Ministries.
Your donation will help us receive bonus dollars!



ArkansasGives is a project of Arkansas Community Foundation. Visit www.ArkansasGives.org to make a minimum \$25 donation between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Thanks for supporting your Presbyterian Missions!

Mark your calendar for a day of giving! Please support your Presbyterian Ministries--Ferncliff, Presbyterian Village, and Vera Lloyd--during ArkansasGives 2016 on Thursday, April 7. This special giving day, hosted by the Arkansas Community Foundation, allows individuals to support non-profits, such as our Presbyterian agencies, and help the nonprofits qualify for bonus giving dollars from ARCF. Visit www.ArkansasGives.org for more information.

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Solar Under the Sun's Solar School Registration is Open

If you have been thinking about attending Solar Under the Sun's Solar School, registration is open! The dates for our upcoming sessions are May 19-22, 2016 and September 22-25, 2016. There are two courses available, and a project team will require at least one graduate from each course. [Click here](#) to register or for more information about the courses.

For teams/churches that are sending a pair (a Solar 1 and a Solar 2 student), the tuition cost for the second participant will only be \$200! For the discount to apply, both participants must register prior to

April 1.

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Host Site Sought for October Presbytery Meeting

Would your congregation like to host the 133rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of AR? Those dates are **Friday late afternoon into Saturday, Oct. 21-22**. Please notify Resourcing Director NiAnn Thompson at niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org if your congregation is interested before you seek Session approval. Host responsibilities will be sent to you. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock will host the next presbytery meeting set for Saturday, June 4th, assisted by Westminster Presbyterian, Little Rock.

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New Names for Presbytery Groups

With the election of committee members at the Feb. presbytery meeting, the former committees were dissolved, with thanks to those members who rotated off, and the new committees, ministry areas and subcommittees were constituted. As we learned together a few years ago that Ministers of Word and Sacrament are now called teaching elders and elders on the Session are now called ruling elders, we will begin to learn together the new names of presbytery groups.

They are:

Administration Ministry Area, formerly Committee on Administration, moderator TE Catherine Allsbury, HR

Committee on Leadership Development, formerly Committee on Preparation for Ministry, moderator TE Kade Curry

Committee on the Church's Ministries, formerly Committee on Ministry, moderator TE Dari Rowen

Church and Its Mission Area, formerly Committee on Christian Education and Committee on Mission, moderator CRE Kelly Pearson

Sub-Committee on Disaster Preparedness, formerly Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Response, co-moderators RE Elizabeth Branch and TE Susan Carter Wiggins

Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults, moderator RE Mary Shaw

Youth Ministry Team Sub-Committee, formerly Youth Advisory Team subcommittee of Christian Education Committee, moderator RE Kim Brooks

Campus Ministry Sub-Committee

Future of the Church Ministry Area, formerly Committee on Congregational Care and Development, moderator RE Leah Shell

Committee on Representation, unchanged, moderator RE Ledridge Davis

Permanent Judicial Commission, unchanged

Nominating Committee, formerly Committee on Nominations, moderator TE Elizabeth Gabbard

Coordinating Team, formerly General Committee, moderator RE Ed Wilkinson

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Nominations Sought for Presbytery Ministry Areas, Committees

Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees beginning in 2017. To download the current form, [click here](#).. Please submit by May 1.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2016 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 [STEWART SMITH](#)

Stated Clerk [ROBERT LOWRY](#)

Assistant Stated Clerk VACANT

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 [BOB BOEHMLER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [LACY SELLARS](#)

Moderator of the Coordinating Team [ED WILKINSON](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

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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>

Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227