



April 2016

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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"Christ is Risen! Shout! Sing!"
By Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

One of the joys of the General Presbyter position is the opportunity to worship in the various congregations that make up the Presbytery of Arkansas. My mother lives in Bella Vista. Wanting to spend the Easter weekend with her, Laura and I worshipped at the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. It was a wonderful, uplifting service of worship. It was great to see this congregation vibrant and alive and filled with people young and old -- especially after the difficult couple of years they have experienced. James Harnish tells the story of a little boy who was "not exactly happy about going to church on Easter Sunday morning. His new shoes were too tight, his tie pinched his neck and the weather was just too beautiful to be cooped up inside . . . as he sulked in the back seat, his parents heard him mutter: 'I don't know why we have to go to church on Easter, anyway; they keep telling the same old story and it always comes out the same in the end.'" Those of us in the church who celebrate the resurrection every Sunday face the risk of failing to be amazed by the familiar story of Easter.



Andre Strydom, the director of music ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville, helped me avoid that risk this year. Andre normally plays the organ and is one of those talented musicians who can direct the choir with head nods and facial expressions while he plays. But on Easter, the church had arranged for a brass ensemble and the handbell choir to accompany the chancel choir on the musical offerings for the service. They also hired a guest organist so that Andre could direct all of the musicians. They all did an outstanding job which was certainly worthy of the grand celebration of Easter. When we stood for the opening hymn and Andre directed a grand introduction, he turned to direct us as we began to sing, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!". For many congregations this direction by the music minister is a regular occurrence. But for Presbyterians, this is a rare event. We are accustomed to following the tempo and lead of the organist or pianist and many of the songs are so familiar to us that we often think we don't need direction when we sing. FPC Bentonville has the words projected on two large screens at the front of the Sanctuary. I noticed that when First Presbyterian Springdale began projecting the words to the hymns several years ago that few people held a hymnbook. As a result, our eyes were not looking down at a hymnal - but toward the screen where Andre was passionately directing our singing. What struck me was the fervor that Andre had toward our task. We were celebrating the central tenet of our faith - that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. Andre, through his motions and his body language was urging us to sing louder. He didn't use words, but I saw him communicating something like - "It's Easter, people! Sing! Sing with everything you have! This news is too wonderful to blandly go through the motions. SING!!!!!!! Shout to the world that the Lord is risen!!!!!!"

And I noticed that it worked. There was a crescendo of voices as we moved through the hymn. I have sung that hymn probably every Easter that I can remember, but I can't recall singing it with more gusto than I did this Easter!! I thank Andre Strydom for reminding me of the need to share this news boldly! As I sat down, I remembered a quote I have often used during the Easter season. On the Easter just before he died, William Sangster painfully printed a short note to his daughter. A Methodist, Sangster had been leading a renewal movement in the British Isles after World War II. He contracted a disease which progressively paralyzed his body, and then his vocal chords. On the note to his daughter he wrote, "how terrible to wake up on Easter Sunday and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!' But it is far worse to have a voice and not want to shout."

We have good news to proclaim. Yes, it is the same old story, but it is the greatest story ever told. And even though we face a challenging environment with changing circumstances and a changing culture and declining resources, we must not forget that people still need to hear the good news of Christ's resurrection and victory over sin and death. We need to proclaim and share the life changing and life giving news of Jesus Christ enthusiastically in our communities and in our world. While it is the same story, we do not have to respond to it in the same old way. Let us all be prayerful and mindful of thinking of new ways to share this wonderful news; and together, let us prayerfully consider how we can more efficiently, effectively, and joyfully work together as the Presbytery of Arkansas to equip and assist our congregations in this task. I am thankful to be partnered with each of you as we do ministry together in this beautiful part of God's creation.

General Presbyter Out of Office Commitments

April 16 - Munger Chapel Dedication, University of the Ozarks. Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministry Area meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville.

April 24-25 Synod Executive Presbyter Forum, Dallas, TX

April 25-26 Synod Leadership Forum -- The Presbyterian Church in a Changing Landscape (see article below).

May 1- 6 Presbytery Leader Formation Program (Year 1 Presbytery Executive Training Seminar), Seattle, WA

Sundays - worship in congregations around the presbytery. Feel free to call Stewart and issue an invitation to worship with your congregation!

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Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery

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.

Leadership Initiative Intern (United Campus Ministry--Fayetteville)

-- United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas has received a Lily Foundation grant which allows the ministry to hire up to 5 student interns each year (approximately 5 hours per week) to explore faith and ministry ideas and opportunities. Students will develop their "ideal" job description, and UCM will match them with a local church or ministry. The students will meet with mentors/advisors and other interns through the school year, will report on their work periodically, and will spend a weekend at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. Interns are expected to be leaders within UCM and participate in the life of the ministry. For more information (including an application) [click here](#).

Director of Community Engagement (United Campus Ministry--Fayetteville)

-- The United Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas seeks a part-time (15 hours/week) employee to assist with fundraising on a large scale, starting an endowment, grant writing, and education of their board on fundraising activities. For a complete job description, [click here](#).

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**Synod Leadership Forum
April 25-26, 2016
Presbyterian Mission Center, Irving, TX**

The Synod of the Sun will host a Leadership Forum on April 25-26 (noon to noon) in Irving to hear a presentation from Greg Smith, Associate Director of Religion Research at Pew Research Center on their latest survey - Religious Landscape Study.

All are invited to participate. The Synod will cover the cost of room and board for up to four from each presbytery. Presbyteries are encouraged to send additional participants at an extra cost of \$20 for meals and \$45 for accommodations (double occupancy/per night). Individuals, local or not representative of presbytery, are encouraged to register and attend at the same cost.

Following the presentation we will reflect on the data and discuss its implications for our congregations and presbyteries. Together we will seek creative ways for congregations and presbyteries to reach all generations with the gospel.

We have seven from the presbytery who plan on attending (our four slots are filled that Synod will pay for room and board) but others are welcome to attend at their own expense. Information on registration can be found at the synod's website (synodsun.org). If you are interested in attending, contact Stewart Smith to get you in contact with others who could carpool down to Dallas.

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Mark Clark Installed at Grace Presbyterian (Little Rock)



On February 21st, 2016, Rev. Mark Clark was installed as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Shown in the above photo are: (Front row) TE Mark Clark, TE Carol Clark, RE Liz Branch, TE Lacy Sellars, (Back row) RE Doug Hanson, TE Sam Pope, TE Stewart Smith, RE Cyril Hollingsworth, TE Don Campbell.

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People and Church News

News of Our Congregations

--**Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville** hosted their annual beans and cornbread dinner and pie auction on March 19 and earned \$4,335, which they donated to New Beginning Children's Home, group foster home in Centerton near the church.

--**First, Springdale** youth summer mission trip June 25-July 2 will be to an outreach urban mission of

Oak Hill Presbyterian, St. Louis and congregation recently provided dinner for United Campus Ministry students.

--**First, Benton** annual chili cook-off was judged by members of the Benton Fire Department with prizes for best, most original, and people's choice chili.

--**First, North Little Rock** posted "A Parent's Guide to Holy Week" on their website to help them explain the history and activities to their children.

--**First, Prairie Grove** was led in a Passover Meal on March 23 by a Messianic Jewish guest and held a Hymnsing on Good Friday.

--Churches in this Presbytery which contributed to Christmas festivities for residents of Vera Lloyd Home include: Allison Memorial, Little Rock; Presbyterian Women at Faith, Horseshoe Bend; First, Conway; First, Eureka Springs; First United, Fayetteville; First, Rogers; Holiday Island; Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village; Park Hill, North Little Rock; Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista; and Little Rock's Second, Trinity and Westover Hills Presbyterian Churches.

--**Faith Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** hosted the Good Friday service on March 25 for the AR Presbyterian Black Caucus.

--**First, Mountain Home** offers a lectionary Bible Study every Wednesday morning and will have a work day on April 16.

--**Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman** celebrated Holy Humor Sunday (Bright Sunday) on April 3. This tradition, widespread in European Protestant, Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches, proposes that one Sunday is not enough to celebrate the Resurrection and includes a party, humorous dress and jokes during worship.

--**First, Conway** has earned the PC(USA) designation as an Earth Care Congregation for their environmental-friendly practices and policies, joining First and Second, Little Rock and First United, Fayetteville as Earth Care congregations in this presbytery.

News of Our People

--Prayers are requested for **Rev. Robert "Chip" and Melinda Hatcher**, new pastor at Westminster, Hot Springs, as Melinda's mother Ann Wood suffered a stroke on March 14, was hospitalized and is in rehab.

--Christian sympathy goes to **Lon Hardin, daughters Charlotte and Kathy** and the family on the death of his wife **Elizabeth "Liz" Hardin** on April 1. She had served as church secretary at First, Malvern, commissioned ruling elder at First, Gurdon and member of presbytery committees for many years. Memorial service was held on April 8 in the sanctuary of Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village where they have been active members.

--**Lacey Sponsler** is the new secretary at First, Van Buren.

--**Sarah Leer** is the new Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First, Bentonville, effective May 8.

--**Rev. Katie Cummings**, pastor and head of staff at First, Bentonville, serves on the Board of Trustees of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

--**Rev. Tasha Blackburn**, co-pastor at First, Fort Smith, serves on the Board of Directors of Vera Lloyd Home and **Rev. Marion Humphrey**, pastor at Allison, Little Rock, is on VLH Director's Council.

--Congratulations to **Rev. Gordon and Shirley Garlington** on the birth of a granddaughter Gianna Mae Garlington on Feb. 29. Proud parents are Amanda and J. J. Garlington. Gordon is pastor at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock

--**Michelle Beeson** is the new secretary at Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay.

--**Dr. Sahr Lebbie** is the new youth director at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock.

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Chip Hatcher Installed at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Hot Springs)



On April 10, 2016, TE Robert (Chip) Hatcher was installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs, AR. Pictured above are: TE Lindy Vogado, TE Sally Johnson, RE Billie Wetzler, TE Chip Hatcher, Moderator of the presbytery TE Lacy Sellars, Vice-moderator of presbytery RE Ruth Hamilton, TE Frank LeBlanc.

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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 connectional 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

--Eleanor Mille, First, Beebe endorses "**The Teachings of Jesus Put to The Test of Time**" (Acc. #VC7833) saying, "Our class liked it and did quite some talking. They had some information and were interested in these new projects." This kit with four 28-minute video programs was shot on four continents with 8 compelling case studies. The premise is to apply Jesus' clearest teachings, on commitment, inner peace, money and forgiveness, to some of the most perplexing and challenging situations on the planet. Kit includes leader's guide, student worksheets, and program scripts.

--Julie Price, church educator at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock recommends "**Egermeier's Bible Story Book**" described within as "a complete narration from Genesis to Revelation for young and old". Julie says this illustrated book has been very useful in numerous settings as it summarizes key Bible stories in a page and a half, and is especially helpful for parents helping their children with at-home scripture studies.

--Roger Bates, First, Yellville claims that "**The Four Acts of Prayer with Walter Wangerin, Jr.**" (Acc. DVD 9404) is still "one of the best ever!", even the second time around for one of their classes. He also applauded "**Who Is This Man?**" as "very oriented to much discussion."

--Norma Stevens, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village really enjoyed the "little" book entitled "**Getting Older, Growing Wiser**" by Carol Ann Morrow, one in the series of Elf-Help books which the Resource Center carries, including Worry Therapy, Christmas Therapy, Grief Therapy, Elf-help for Dealing with Difficult People, Elf-help for Coping with Cancer, all quick-reads with practical advice on big challenges.

NEW RESOURCES TO CONSIDER AND PREVIEW

"**The Faith of a Mockingbird**," enjoyed by First, Benton during Lent, is one of the Pop in Culture series of studies by pastor Matt Rawle using books, movies or TV shows, to examine questions and issues of Christian faith. This four-part study includes 5 to 7 minute DVD vignettes, a leader guide and two copies of the small group book which uses characters from Harper Lee's beloved "To Kill a Mockingbird." Leader guide contains outlines, prayers, activities, discussion questions and other options.

"**Animate: Practices**" is one in the trio of Animate studies from Spark House which has been successfully circulating among churches in Malvern, Benton, Little Rock and Conway. This DVD study with a facilitator guide and participant journal introduces central practices of the Christian faith and works well in adult Sunday School, small group, college ministry and for individual devotional. Presenters include Brian McLaren, Mike Slaughter, the late Phyllis Tickle and Doug Pagitt. "Faith" and "Bible" are other offerings in the Animate collection.

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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It's All Transition

Rev. Michael Vinson, Staff Resource
Congregational Vitality

Those of us who live and move and have being in the institutional church are looking for answers. How are we to navigate all the change that takes place in the world and in our communities? How are we to be the people of God in this place and time? What holds us back from being the people God calls us to be and who and what exactly is God calling us to be these days? What has always worked doesn't work anymore and there doesn't seem to be a one size fits all answer for what will work. What are we to do in this in-between time between what was and what will be?

In our denomination and in this Presbytery, when a local congregation is looking for a new pastor, we often recommend someone with skills and experience in transitional ministry. Here is something you might want to consider: It is all transitional ministry. God is in the process of birthing something new in the church. In fact, John tells us in Revelation 21 that God speaks directly and says "Behold I make all things new." I believe this making of all things new is an ongoing process and that at this moment in time we are being asked to participate in the creation of a new thing.

During times of transition, during the in-between times, during the time when what was is fading away and what is to be has yet to arrive, there are some things we can do to help guide us on the journey. There are things we can do in our local congregations that help us be focused and flexible in being the people God calls us to be during times of rapid change. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing with you some things we can do to help discern next steps in ministry for each of us individually and collectively. Before I do that though, I want to share with you some assumptions that go along with these tips for moving through transition. Here they are:

- The institutional Church is in a time of transition. This is a good thing. This means God is ready to birth something new. In order to survive during change, we must be realistic about the reality of God working among us to do something new.
- Some of us, individually and collectively, are apprehensive about this, nay afraid. And in our fear, we get stuck and stymie ourselves and are unable to participate in this new thing God is doing.
- There are tried and true ways of navigating this change.
- God is ultimately in charge and all that is required of us is first to be obedient. Did you know

the word obedience comes from the Latin word which means "to hear"? So our action comes from our listening. Whatever we decide to do is a direct result of our prayers, study and listening not just to God but to each other.

- Change is constant. How can God make all things new if there is no change? That includes me, you, the local congregation and the institutional church.
- We don't have to lose our identity. Our identity comes from a clear understanding of who we are and why we are here. It does not come from our building, the projects we are involved in, how large or small we are, the type of worship we have, the color and edition of our current hymnal and whether or not we use a guitar or an organ in worship.
- We are not alone. As a denomination we have many good resources to help us move through this change. Believe it or not, there are people, books, information and even money available through congregations in this Presbytery, Presbytery staff and resources, and denominational staff and resources to help figure out how to discern our way through this time of change.
- People are spiritually hungry and are ready to give the institutional church a try. In order for us to be open to the needs of those spiritually hungry folks, we have to admit that it takes a big step for folks who have been wounded by the church or who have never participated in church, to come through our doors. And in order for us to feed the spiritual hunger of our generation we are going to have to give them opportunities to feel welcome, become a part and even lead us into the future.

There might be more assumptions we could add to this list. As you embark on discerning next steps in ministry, you might want to think about the assumptions you have about your current ministry and assumptions about the way you will be doing ministry in the future. Until next time, ponder your assumptions and listen for what God is telling you about participating in this new thing God is doing. For more information on discerning your way through transitions contact

Rev. Michael Vinson
Presbytery of Arkansas
mvinson17@gmail.com

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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 Monday, April 18, 2016.

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

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Get Ready for The P.L.A.C.E.!!

The Third Annual "The P.L.A.C.E.", Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment, is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2016 at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. We are ready to offer a good variety of workshops for church leaders, teachers, officers and pastors, including:

- Navigating Change, Personal and Congregational
- What to do in active shooter situation
- Congregational Disaster Preparedness
- For the Beauty of the Skies: How perception of beauty informs our theology of God
- Zombies and Easter Hats: What the Walking Dead can teach us about resurrection
- Clerk of Session Training for new clerks
- Changes in the Board of Pension Plan
- Equipping congregations to help people age with grace and dignity.
- Questions for the new GP: FAQ for Stewart Smith
- Healthy Boundaries 101
- End of Life: Life's Last Great Challenge
- Presbyterian Pilgrimage
- Spirituality Center: How to create one in your church. Second Presbyterian will have a Spirituality center set up for us to experience that day.

If you have workshop ideas please contact Kristi Button at kbutton@fupcfay.org as soon as you can.

THE P.L.A.C.E. is Saturday, August 6th from 9:30 to 2:45:

We begin the day together at 9:30am with registration, gather for worship at 10:00 am and then offer three workshop sessions, with lunch between the first and second session. We conclude the day at 2:45.

WATCH FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION IN JUNE AND JULY:

It is very important to register on-time. Registration is \$15 and registrations by July 27 will include a lunch. After the 27th, the event cost will increase to \$20 and it will not include a lunch. We will offer a restaurant list for nearby restaurants.

Childcare is available for \$10/ child with a \$25/ family maximum. Children should bring a bag lunch.

Mini-Ferncliff camp will be offered for elementary children. Children should bring a bag lunch.

Getting excited about the 2016 event? Let's keep a great thing going!

LEADERS for 2017 P.L.A.C.E. are needed

This event has become an annual opportunity, which people around the Presbytery have come to look forward to and enjoy.

If you have really enjoyed this event and maybe even have thoughts of how you could take it to the next-level, please contact the Church and Its Mission Committee. We are looking for one or two coordinators of the event for early August 2017. The earlier we can locate a leader or co-leaders, the more time you have to observe how the 2016 event comes together.

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Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

This Friday, April 15 is the deadline to sign up for the Presbytery's summer youth trips to Mo Ranch's Jr. High Jubilee and the Montreat Youth Conference! Please make sure your youth know, and help them get their registration forms in! All information and registration forms can be found on the Presbytery webpage at: <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

Presbytery of Arkansas 2016 Youth Summer Trips!!

JR. HIGH JUBILEE at MO RANCH

Texas Hill Country

July 9-14, 2016

Current 6th-8th graders

\$585



MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE



Montreat, North Carolina

July 23-30, 2016

Current 8th-12th graders

\$799

Deadline to register: April 15!!

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: Do One Thing



In the coming days members of the Disaster Preparedness (and Response) Subcommittee will be contacting local churches to find out how prepared each congregation is for potential disasters. We'll be looking for information on what plans you have made, what equipment you have at your disposal, and informing you on possible grants available to your congregations. But most importantly you should know we're looking for you to try to do one thing to improve your preparedness this coming year. Doing one thing each year adds up to a lot of things over time. Here are some examples that your congregations can do this year...

- Do you have someone who'll monitor a cellphone for weather alerts during worship, office hours, Sunday school, or meetings?
- Do you have an evacuation plan in case of a fire or tornado?
- Do you have an offsite backup of computer data?

- Have you reviewed your insurance coverages recently?
- Do you have a photo or video inventory of your property?
- Do you have a schedule of fire/evacuation drills set for during worship?
- Do you have a call tree of members/staff in case of inclement weather or a disaster?

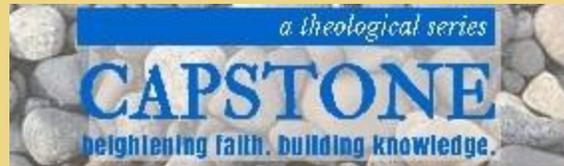
Doing one of these things will get you that much closer to being prepared when a disaster strikes.

--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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Capstone Event at First Presbyterian in Fort Smith



Register online at
www.1pres.org/capstone

Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Dates and Times:
Thursday, April 21
at 5:30pm

*Free and open to the public
with dinner and short talk

Friday, April 22
from 4-7pm

Saturday, April 23
from 9am-noon

Registration Fee:
\$50

*includes the Friday
and Saturday class



**Nurturing Resilience and Imagination as
Critical Components of Faith Formation.**

Faith is a gift from God. The Church has been entrusted to help nurture that precious gift of faith. We do this through worship, education, mission, evangelism, and fellowship. But what are the components of our faith that are critical to these activities? In this course, participants will explore two traits: resilience and imagination, with the understanding that both are critical for forming a vibrant and sustaining faith for all ages. We will explore not only what these traits are but also how they are enacted through the work of the Church.

First Presbyterian
FORT SMITH
116 North 12th Street Fort Smith, Arkansas (479)783-8919

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Spiritual Formation Retreat for College Students

Camp SOTO (in Harriet, AR) was the site for a spiritual formation retreat for Arkansas college students

February 26-28. Candidate for Ministry Krista Denne led the group of college students from around the state in a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship and spirituality.





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Update on the Presbytery of Arkansas' Honduras Ministry

by TE Leslie Belden

It seems as though God is multiplying our ministry with Honduras every day!

- * The Presbytery of Honduras is starting a new church where our presbytery built homes in 2014.
- * A new theological education program is being developed through funding from First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, and PC(USA) and Central American theological seminary assistance.
- * Solar Under the Sun installations by our presbytery are really making a difference in the lives of rural Hondurans.
- * The "Honduran Network" of presbyteries and Presbyterian congregations is growing, and cooperation and coordination among our Presbyterian groups is increasing.
- * The model of Presbyterian World Mission is being transformed into a more empowering model with the Presbytery of Arkansas taking a leading role
- * Funding for a Mission Co-Worker, or co-workers, is growing and we will be able to again have a Mission Co-Worker on the ground working with our Honduran brothers and sisters soon.

As a member of the Presbytery of Arkansas our individuals, and congregations, are already a part of this vital ministry. But you can do more:

- * Congregations are encouraged to be in covenant with one another, making a specific commitment to global ministry.
- * Individuals are challenged to consider going on a mission trip, either to build homes through Heifer Project, International, or to install Solar Panels through Solar Under the Sun. Our next building trip is planned for October 23-29 or 30, 2016.
- * Individuals, congregations, and Presbyterian Women's groups can assist with sending sewing materials, or with education for children.
- * Congregations are asked to add the Presbytery of Arkansas' Honduran Ministry to their prayer list, and pray for the people of Honduras and our mission with them.
- * Congregations are encouraged to have someone from the Presbytery's Honduran Ministry Subcommittee speak at worship, educational, or fellowship events.

Please prayerfully consider how God is leading you to be more involved. Review the covenant below and visit with your Session about it.

Arkansas Presbyterian Honduran Ministry Congregational Covenant

"The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the church." (Book of Order, F-1.01) "The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (I Cor. 12:27-28)." Book of Order, F-1.0301)

Being called by God to serve others as Jesus Christ serves us, and as the Body of Christ with unique gifts and talents in each congregation, we commit ourselves to fulfill God's call. We understand that all are God's children, and that our responsibilities to serve lie not only within our own communities but around the world. Therefore, we commit to focus outside of our area of God's kingdom within the Presbytery of Arkansas, by partnering with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras.

To facilitate God's work among us, and the greater world, we agree to engage in, and support mission through our sister congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas, with Presbyterian World Mission (PCUSA), and the Presbytery of Honduras. Toward this end we covenant to:

- * To hold the ministry and participants in prayer.
- * To provide regular communication about the Arkansas Presbyterian Honduran Ministry to the congregation.
- * To annually budget for the ministry.
- * To welcome representatives of our mutual ministry to speak or present information, and offer hospitality when such representatives are in the area.
- * To participate in mission activities as God leads and we are able.
- * To be facilitators of mission in Honduras and not encourage dependencies on North American resources.
- * To encourage mutual ministry within our congregations with Spanish-language people who live in our own communities.

This commitment has been approved by the Session of (name of church)

_____ ,

on (date) _____ ,

and will remain in effect for four years, renewable by approval of the Session.

Signed (by Clerk of Session), _____ .

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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.

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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>