



February 2017

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas

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University of the Ozarks, Clarksville Hosts Winter Presbytery Meeting

By Recording Clerk Elder NiAnn Thompson

Outgoing moderator Rev. Lacy Sellars called the 134th Stated Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in the renovated Munger-Wilson Memorial Chapel. UofO chaplain Jeremy Wilhelmi greeted the 166 commissioners, youth delegates and guests. Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Pilgrimage were granted permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper, three new Standing Rules were adopted, five Administrative Commissions were reaffirmed for 2017, First in Marianna was excepted from rotation and elders' term limits, and two changes were voted to Administration Ministry Area. Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton from Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village was installed as 2017 moderator during evening worship. Rev. Sellars preached, Revs. David Dyer and Dari Rowen delivered charges to Hamilton, Revs. Stewart Smith (General Presbyter) and Susan Gray officiated at communion, organist Dr. Sharon Gorman and the UofO Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Jonathan Ledger led music. The Presbytery of Arkansas scholarship at UofO received \$1,508 from the worship offering. A reception followed worship in the beautifully improved chapel lower level.



UofO Chaplain, Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi
Welcomes the Presbytery



Outgoing Moderator Rev. Lacy Sellars (left) presents the gavel to incoming Moderator Ruling Elder Ruth Hamilton



Rev. David Dyer (left) issues the Charge to new Moderator Ruth Hamilton



Rev. Dari Rowen (left) issues the Charge to the Presbytery

Presbytery reconvened Saturday morning, Feb. 18, in Rogers Conference Center at UofO, called to order by Moderator Hamilton. Chaplain Wilhelmi led a devotional

activity before the installation of Vice Moderator Rev. Leslie Roper, First, Batesville minister. General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith gave the annual State of the Presbytery report, highlighting challenges and triumphs of congregations. He thanked congregations for their financial support and ministry areas/committees for their frugality. It was voted to approve up to \$40,000 to pay off loans Presbytery had taken out related to gift to Ferncliff's capital campaign. It was voted to express appreciation for Robert Lowry as Stated Clerk and wish him well in his new call in Jackson, MS.



Moderator RE Ruth Hamilton (left) presides over the installation of new Vice-Moderator Rev. Leslie Roper



Moderator Ruth Hamilton (at lectern) thanks outgoing Stated Clerk Rev. Robert Lowry (seated) as General Presbyter Rev. Stewart Smith looks on

Stated Clerk's written report reminded those covered to submit paperwork on misconduct policy and background check. Revised Ministry and Committee duties,

and finalized dismissal of First, Siloam Springs to the EPC were noted. He moved and Presbytery voted a new Section 4 of Organization and Structure documents and amendments to 3D, on voice and vote for moderators of areas and committees as well as elders on Coordinating Team and increasing the membership on Coordinating Team. Moderator of Coordinating Team highlighted items in the written report, thanking Rev. Leslie Belden for accepting the position as temporary Stated Clerk, Task Force on Commissioned Ruling Elders, set Oct. 6-7 for fall Presbytery meeting in Forrest City, and Task Force to examine financial resources. Youth advisory delegates and Young Adult Volunteers brought greetings. Terms of call for General Presbyter Smith for 2017, the 2017 budget of \$805,330.00 (a reduction of over \$80,000 from 2016) and changes in job description of part-time staff member Rev. Michael Vinson, all passed.

New ministers to the region Rev. Blake Brinegar (First, Yellville) and Revs. Joyce and Danny Daniel, both honorably retired, were welcomed under the Committee on Church and Its Ministries report. A policy for pastors from other denominations serving in this region was discussed and approved, and commissioners read of transfers, changes in status and request from congregations and entities. Rev. David Gill, Ferncliff executive director for 20 years, was honored on his retirement by Rev. Anne Russ, and Rev. Dari Rowen led commissioners in remembering Rev. Larry Mitchell and Rev. Carlos Lopez, HR who passed since last October meeting. Rev. "Chip" Andrus, formerly a pastor in this presbytery, presented the history, current language and changes in proposed new Directory for Worship section of Book of Order.



New minister to the presbytery Rev. Blake Brinegar (First--Yellville)



Rev. Joyce Daniel (HR)



Rev. Danny Daniel (HR)



Rev. "Chip" Andrus presents the proposed new Directory for Worship

Board members and new staff assisted Rev. Gill in the annual, uplifting report from Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center including free meeting space for presbytery committees/areas and "pay what you can" policy for congregational events. Committee on Leadership Development reported and Presbytery happily endorsed the following: David Clark as candidate for CRE; Stephen Moody, inquirer in ministry; Molly DeWitt and Katherine Norwood, moving from inquirer to candidate in ministry. On recommendation from the Polity Committee and advisory votes from youth delegates, commissioners approved amendment to Book of Order 16-G on "Access to the Lord's Table" and the full, new Directory for Worship.



Stephen Moody (incoming Inquirer) addresses the presbytery as Rev. Kade Curry observes



Rev. Kade Curry presents Candidate Molly DeWitt



New Candidate Katherine Norwood addresses the presbytery

Commissioners elected six people to fill immediate committee vacancies. Future of the Church Ministry Area announced grants will soon be available for congregations, and a technology workshop is set for March 7 at First, Conway. Mission of the Church Area promoted two nearby educational events this spring (NEXT church in

March) and summer (Big Tent in July). Under new business, a four-person task force to assess the current Presbytery staff model was authorized; the charge to Administrative Commission at First, Ozark was expanded; and election of a search committee for the permanent Stated Clerk was declined in light of the report from the task force on staff due in October. Adjournment came at 2:20 p.m. (Note: this summary may be used by commissioners to report back to their sessions.)

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Nominations Sought for Committee, Ministry Area Service

Presbytery's Committee on Nominations is seeking names of qualified and willing persons to serve on presbytery ministry areas or committees or subcommittee beginning in 2018. To download the current form, [click here](#). Please submit by March 24.

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MEDIA TRAINING FOR LEADERS OF FAITH AND MORAL COURAGE

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch provided

Cost: \$50 per person

Location: First Presbyterian Church--Conway, AR

How can a message get out beyond just Sunday Morning? Our award-winning media training equips and trains leaders of faith and moral courage to communicate effectively in today's rapidly changing media landscape. This training will help you be more effective in using media and social media in ministry. (This is not a beginning social media class. A working knowledge of media and social media is needed.)

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Find your voice
- Develop messaging strategy
- Harness the power of story

- Generate your own press through social media

WHO WILL LEAD

Rev. Ashley Harness is ordained in the United Church of Christ and is also a communications strategist with almost a decade of experience in non-profit media work. When she is not enjoying leading worship, standing for justice or listening deeply in pastoral care at Lyndale United Church of Christ, she consults with the Center for Progressive Renewal to help progressive churches across the country grow. She also consults through Auburn Theological Seminary's digital organizing and media teams, providing confidential training and counsel to religious leaders seeking to use social and traditional media as a pulpit. You can follow her writing on the Huffington Post. Ashley received her Masters of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in 2012 and her Bachelor of Arts at Brown University in 2005.

Space is limited. No more than two people from any one church, please.

Register online today.

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Blake Brinegar Installed as Pastor of First--Yellville

On Sunday, February 12th, **Rev. Blake Brinegar** was installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church--Yellville. The Administrative Commission for his installation is pictured below:



Left to right: Rev. Dick Shinkle, Rev. Lacy Sellars (Moderator of Presbytery), Ruling Elder Evelyn Mills, Rev. Blake Brinegar, Ruling Elder Jeanne Simpson, Rev. Brian Brock, Rev. Patty Schaller

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Youth Attend Montreat College Conference



17 students from the University of the Ozarks, Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), and Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock) traveled together to attend the Montreat College Conference, January 2-5. They joined over 1,000 college students from around the country. The theme for the conference was "Beyond Babel" which focused on the gift of unity within diversity, radical inclusion, peace and comfort in the midst of trials and oppression, and what a beloved community of God might look like going forward.

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Approved Budget Available for Download

The 2017 Approved Budget for the Presbytery of Arkansas can be downloaded [here](#). This is

the budget that was presented and approved at the February presbytery meeting.

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Church Employment (and Other) Opportunities in our Presbytery

Pastor -- Huntsville First Presbyterian Church --First Presbyterian Church (Huntsville) seeks a half-time pastor to help lead their congregation. Full details are available through the CLC portal through www.pcusa.org. Inquiries can be directed via email to Jason Holt at jholtmd@gmail.com. The website for the church is: <http://fphar.church>.

Pastor -- First Presbyterian Church--Newport -- The First Presbyterian Church of Newport, AR, is searching for an energetic part-time minister to serve a small, loving and active congregation. Newport is a county-seat town in East Arkansas, and the members of the church are active in the life of the community. For more information, contact Marvin Hare, Jr. at mbhare@hughes.net or 870-217-3661.

First Presbyterian Church, Searcy, AR, is seeking a **part-time Pianist/Accompanist**. Responsibilities would include accompanying one weekday rehearsal with the adult and children's choirs and accompanying choral and congregational music for Sunday morning worship. This individual would serve under the supervision of the church pastor and session. Please send resumes and any additional documentation to fpcsearcy@gmail.com or mail to First Presbyterian Church, Attn: Pianist/Accompanist Search Committee Chair, 400 West Arch Street, Searcy, AR, 72143. For more information about FPC Searcy, visit us online at <http://fpcsearcy.com> or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpcsearcy.

Lyon College is looking for a full-time, 12 month per year College Chaplain. This person serves as pastor to students, staff and faculty; strengthens the spiritual life on campus; functions as liaison between the college and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and may teach one religion course each semester. Send PIF or resume with three references to: Ms. Clarinda Foot, P.O. Box 2317, Batesville, AR 72503-2317.

First Presbyterian Church of Walnut Ridge is searching for a full-time minister. Full salary and benefits are available. The church is prepared to help that person repay educational debt over a several year period. For more information, please contact Tom Moore, (870) 219-9379, tommoore@suddenlink.net.

First Presbyterian Church, Yellville has 3 sets of adult choir stoles we no longer need.

Our hope is to gift them to a church choir who is in need of stoles but cannot afford to purchase them.

The stoles are reversible, shawl style (do NOT go over your head) and made of acetate satin. They are made by the Regency Cap & Gown Company, stole S-1, if you would like to go online and look at them.

We have:

- 1 set of 24 green/white reversible
- 1 set of 26 green/white reversible
(these 2 sets can't be combined, the green is extremely different)
- 1 set of 25 purple/red reversible

Depending on the location of those requesting them, we could arrange for pick up at our church or we will be glad to mail/ship them. We do ask that the receiver pay the shipping cost.

If interested, please respond by February 28, 2017. You may call the church office (870.449.6242) Monday, Wednesday or Friday 10:00-2:00 or anytime at your convenience and leave a message with your name and contact information.

100 copies of "The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs" (published in 1990, embossed on the blue cover with Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista) are available for the taking, first come, first served. Contact niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org to arrange pick up.

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People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to **Rev. Sally Johnson** of Little Rock and family on the death of her husband **Rev. Carlos Alberto Lopez**, 93, on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Lopez was an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

A native of Puerto Padre, Cuba, Lopez graduated from Universidad de la Habana/University of New Mexico with an economics degree and San Francisco Theological Seminary with a master's degree in theology. Before ordination, he was a staff sergeant in the New Mexico Air National Guard. Ordained in 1962, Lopez pastored Presbyterian churches in

Albuquerque, El Paso and San Antonio, served on the board of San Francisco Seminary, and was active on committees in Tres Rios and Mission Presbyteries. He retired in 1990 and in their almost eight years in AR Presbytery served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, taught Spanish at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, and sang in that church choir.

He is survived by his wife Sally, also an honorably retired minister, son Daniel (Kristin) and daughter Alicia Martinez (Eric); stepchildren Charlie Johnson (Robin); Voris Johnson, Jr. (Darrell) and Julie Holt (Kent), and 13 grandchildren. Memorial service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock. Memorials are suggested to the church, Presbyterian Village, AR Hospice or San Francisco Seminary.

--**Rev. Michael Ulasewich**, pastor of First, Conway, now serves on the alumni board of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

--**Larry Hall** is the new part-time facilities manager at First, Bentonville.

--**Monty Hill** is the new choir director at First, Searcy and is a full-time band director at Lyon College, Batesville.

News of Our Congregations and Ministries

--**Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center** was spotlighted in the January/February 2017 issue of "Horizons" magazine of Presbyterian Women in an article about women who were certified in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response.

--**First, Conway** was featured in Jan. 9, 2017 "The Presbyterian Outlook" focus article "Ancient & new: Presbyterians and Spiritual Practices" with photo and text of their Lenten practice of introducing and experiencing one spiritual discipline (prayer journaling, guided meditation, Taize' worship with silence, lectio divina and prayer postures) on Sunday during worship.

--**First, Benton's** youth sold "soup to go" after the annual congregational meeting on Feb. 5, "Souper Bowl of Caring."

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** takes their turn at First, Little Rock's feeding ministry Stewpot, preparing a hot meal for hungry people at noon on third Tuesday of each month.

--**First, Yellville** plans a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 28 with the men cooking and the youth serving.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** planned a party on Feb. 4 for all single people. They are also preparing the Lenten Devotional Booklet from contributions from the members of a scripture, paragraph and a prayer.

--**First, Fort Smith** has offered an adult Sunday School opportunity to learn how stained glass windows are created, their symbolism and the meanings of their sanctuary windows, led by an art professor.

--**Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs** observed "Invite a Friend to Worship" on Feb. 19 with members asked to take three special invitation cards and invite three neighbors/co-workers/friends to worship.

--**Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock** plans a pancake supper to precede their Ash Wednesday worship service with imposition of ashes on March 1.

--**First, Bentonville** hosted Presbyterian missionaries to Bangladesh Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan on Feb. 15 at a potluck event.

--**First, Morrilton** offered to the community a chili luncheon and bake sale fundraiser on Feb. 12.

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Resource Center News

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

LENT IS ALMOST UPON US!

Many of our congregations plan special worship services or fellowship events to herald or begin Lent, which officially starts on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Even if you haven't planned a special study or programs for the weeks leading up to Easter on April 9, you might devote a gathering or two to some seasonal devotion or make these available to your congregation. All are available for loan. Following are books that can help us prepare for Easter.

For Adult Groups:

"Easter from the Back Side: A different look at the story of Christ's Resurrection" by J. Ellsworth Kalas which connects the Easter story with other stories, including both the Old and New Testaments.

"Max Lucado's 3:16" kit containing the paperback book, print study guide for individuals or small groups, DVD of promotional materials and leader's guide, and DVD "Stories of Hope."

"God was Here and I was out to Lunch" by James W. Moore includes a discussion guide and is based on Jacob's statement "Surely the Lord is in this place-and I did not know it!" and the busyness and preoccupation that cause us to miss God when God is here.

Perfect for Lent is Walter Brueggemann's **"Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of Now"** which discusses how Sabbath breaks the restless cycle of consumption, achievement, performance and possession to focus on God, other people and all life. Three copies are in YOUR Resource Center.

"Lenten Reflections on The Confession of Belhar" by Kerri N. Allen and Donald K. McKim, editors looks at the newest confession in The Book of Confessions and makes a timely call to "the Church of Jesus Christ to embrace humility and reconciliation of broken relationships."

"Voices for Good Friday: Worship Services with Dramatic Monologues Based on the Gospels" is a collection of interpretive, dramatic narratives useful for reader's theater, stage performance, sermon helps, and in worship settings with three ready-made, lectionary-based Good Friday/Tenebrae worship services, suggested hymns and scripture readings.

For Children:

"What We Do in Lent: A Child's Activity Book" by Anne E. Kitch contains over 40 activities (interactive puzzles, color-by-number pages, word finds, mazes) for children ages 4 to 7

"Mystery of the Shaking Ground: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children" is a reproducible collection of versatile 10 to 15-minute-long programs for young to older children, some with no-speaking parts, simple lines, solo and group speaking parts focusing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Peter's betrayal, Jesus' trial, his crucifixion on Good Friday and the title piece on Easter Sunday. Poems, prayers, a rap, fingerplays and reflections complete the book.

Reminder: I am in the Resource Center on Monday and Wednesday and available by phone (cell

501.337.2360) or email other days.

(Your Resource Center receives funding from the presbytery's Mission of the Church ministry area.)

Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News

Presbytery of Arkansas Sr. High Youthquake March 31-April 2, 2017 at Ferncliff Camp

Be Still!

Mark 4:35-41

9th-12th graders

\$95 for youth and adult advisors

\$65 for Leader Corps (18-22 years)

Keynoter: Rev. Marc van Bulck

Chaplain: Rev. Carol Clark

Music: Rob Button

Group registrations due: March 17. Online Personal Forms due: March 19.

Sr. High Youthquake information and registration forms can be found here: <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmYouthCouncil.aspx>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS -- MARCH 15!

Please invite all youth from your church to join us on one of these fun, faith-building, friendship-making summer youth conferences!

Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch

July 1-6, 2017

6th-8th graders

\$560

\$395 (price reduced!!)

Montreat Youth Conference

July 22-29, 2017

8th-12th graders

\$799

Info and registration forms here:

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

Partial scholarships are available for those with financial need.

Contact Britton Varn at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org for more information!

Sr. High Mission Trip with Memphis Youth Mission (Memphis, TN, 8th-12th graders) -- July 9-14, 2017. All our spots have been filled. If you would still like to attend, contact Britton at britton@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

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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National Conferences Near Arkansas in 2017

Two popular national conferences sponsored by the PC(USA) will be relatively near the Presbytery of Arkansas in March and July, so make plans now to attend! To help make that happen, Presbytery's Church and Its Mission Ministry Area is making available eight grants of \$50 each to members or staff of congregations within the bounds to help attend either, but not both, of these excellent conferences. Contact moderator Kelly Pearson at ktpearson@suddenlink.net for grant information and NiAnn Thompson at niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org for help with coordinating travel.

NEXT church renewal group's national gathering is set for Monday through Wednesday, March 13-15, at Marriott Downtown in Kansas City, MO. The theme is Wells & Walls: Well-Being in a Thirsty World based on John 4:1-42, the Samaritan woman at the well. Keynote speakers are Dr. Rodger Nishioka (who was enthusiastically received by this Presbytery in June, 2015 at Benton), Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah and Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante. On Monday and Tuesday, 45 workshops will be offered in rotation, as will a variety of 7-minute "Ignite" presentations, fellowship and worship. Details are at nextchurch.net.

Big Tent 2017, the official training event of the denomination in years when General Assembly does not meet, will be on Thursday through Saturday, July 6-8, at Washington University, St. Louis, MO. With the motto "Be inspired...Become equipped...Get connected!" Big Tent offers worship, workshops and the opportunity to engage and connect with other Presbyterians. Save the date and watch for more information to be released soon.

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Heartland and Northern Kansas Offer Stewardship Conference Kansas City, MO -- March 3-4

Heartland Presbytery and The Presbytery of Northern Kansas are co-sponsoring a 2-day Spirit of Stewardship Conference 2017. They will have two keynoters and many sessions on various topics of stewardship. The cost is \$75.

To register (and for more information) click this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Spirit-of-Stewardship> .For a flyer with information about location and Keynote Speakers, [click here](#).

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It's That Time Again -- Clergy Salary Worksheets, Church Information Sheets, Background Checks, Statistical Reports

Once again, we need your help with Clergy Salary Worksheets and Church Information Sheets. Please fill out these forms and return to our office by May 1st, 2017. You may also simply email the information to Kenneth Rich at kenneth@presbyteryofarkansas.org.

Link for the Clergy Salary Worksheet: [Click here](#)

Link for the Church Information Sheet: [Click here](#)

We are also due for 5-year renewal of the background checks for our ministers. Please submit the Sexual Misconduct Policy's "Acknowledgment of Receipt" ([click here](#)) and the "Background Check Form" ([click here](#)).

For the full "Sexual Misconduct Policy" document, ([click here](#)).

THANK YOU for your help!!!

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New List of Churches by Region

The 2016 new 4-Region list of churches can be found [here](#).

You can also find this file at the presbytery's website under "Resources | Presbytery Documents."

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Presbyterian Pilgrimage Invites You to April's Event

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 30, 2017. 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 16, 2017.

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Mark Your Calendar! Dates for Vera Lloyd Activities in 2017

3rd annual (and last) Arkansas Gives on-line giving day, Thursday, April 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Make a gift of \$25 or more by credit at ArkansasGives.org

Pink Hat and Donor Appreciation Day, Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Annie B. Wells Campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello, Arkansas. Look for more details coming soon!

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m., Turkey Trot 5K and one mile fun for kids, 9 a.m., Annie B. Wells Campus, 745 Old Warren Road, Monticello, Arkansas

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Presbyterian Women Happenings

The 2017 Spring Gathering for ALL Presbyterian Women of Arkansas Presbytery (PWP) will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs on April 22. Worship leader will be Rev. Laura Fleetwood, HR, and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard, FPC Arkadelphia. Mission speakers will represent Vera Lloyd and Westover Hills PC Ladies Prison Ministry.

The PWP Spring Gathering's theme is "Sisters in Faith," and precludes the PWP Interfaith Retreat to be held on August 11-12, 2017; at Ferncliff. Special speakers at the retreat will be Sophia Said and other members of the Interfaith Council at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Little Rock. The Friday session of the retreat will be for Presbyterian ladies, only, while the Saturday session will be open to all Daughters of Abraham (Christian, Jewish, Muslim). For copies of flyers for this event, click [here](#) and [here](#). For a registration form, [click here](#).

The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs look forward to hosting this Gathering and look forward to inviting you to their beautiful historic church for this very special occasion. Why not make this a weekend trip and invite some friends to join you for an extra day/night in this charming and very entertaining little city. This gathering would be a wonderful opportunity for you to share the joy of being a Presbyterian Woman with your friends!

Presbyterian Women are always interested in discovering new ways to share their blessings with others, and in December, the PW Lydia Circle at Bella Vista Presbyterian Church hosted their annual Christmas tea, not only to celebrate their own joy of the Christmas Season, but to share with others by delivering cookies to local shut ins and to Bella Vista first responders (photo below).



Ladies, if your church has recently shared its blessings with others, through events or activities, please send those ideas (would love a picture, also) to Jeanne Lloyd, jlloyd12@sbcglobal.net.

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A Program for Younger Pastors Through the Lilly Foundation

The Institute for Clergy and Civic Engagement is open for cohort applications for its two year program beginning in the fall of 2017.

The ICCE is funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, and administered through Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. It is an ecumenical program, open to Arkansas pastors age 40 years and younger at an early stage (5 to 10 years out of seminary) in their ministry careers.

The purpose of the program is to assist in strengthening pastoral identity and to stimulate pastoral leadership as public theologians. Participants will address issues in which church, civic, and community entities may work together to meet the needs of the mission field outside the walls of the church.

The experience includes participation in six retreats and a mission trip over a two year period. Retreat content varies from focus on current issues, such as racial justice and poverty, to opportunities to deepen self-awareness and spiritual formation. Speakers and facilitators are drawn from government, business, educational, and non-profit sectors. Each participant in the cohort will develop a ministry project for his or her setting of ministry.

Retreats will be held at the Lookout Point/Lakeside Inn in Hot Springs, Arkansas. All expenses are paid by the grant, and each participant will receive a stipend.

If you are interested in receiving an application, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Cole, micole@arumc.org or 501-960-7731, by March 1, 2017.

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Presbytery Office -- Winter Weather Reminder

In case of inclement weather, the presbytery office is closed when Little Rock School Districts are closed. We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

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Prayer List for Congregations -- 2017 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 STAFF:

General Presbyter [STEWART SMITH](#)
Temporary Stated Clerk [LESLIE BELDEN](#)
Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)
Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)
Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)
Staff Resource for Vital Congregations [MICHAEL VINSON](#)
Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)
Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [LACY SELLARS](#)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [LESLIE ROPER](#)

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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 12,000 Presbyterians gathered in 83 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.

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