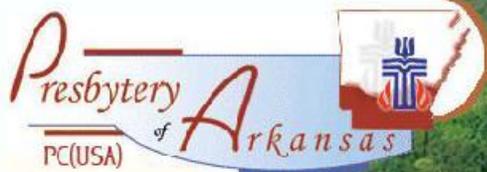


August 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"On Oldsmobiles and Offering Plates"

Clif Christopher, President of Horizons Stewardship, will be our guest at the October 12-13 meeting of the Presbytery at Central Presbyterian in Pine Bluff. He speaks about the now defunct Oldsmobile's one-time ad campaign. It touted the tag line, "It's not your Dad's Oldsmobile." Oldsmobile expected the new tag would persuade potential buyers to think that Oldsmobile had done dramatic re-engineering on their new vehicles. It would now produce a car enticing not to our parents' generation but to the younger generation as well. The only problem was that when people saw the new Olds, they thought, "Looks a lot like Dad's Olds." They didn't buy the spiffy jingle, when they saw what looked like the same old Olds Daddy drove.



The image speaks to the church, Christopher proposes, which has used the same approach to stewardship through the past 50 plus years but is finding that the old ways of seeking gifts from members aren't working the way they once did. But there are new ways that make a difference, ways we need to know and practice.

On Friday, October 12, Christopher will lead the Presbytery in considering stewardship for the new era. He will address why people give, why the Church must learn to compete, the "three pockets" of giving, how we can and must change our culture of stewardship as well as generational differences in giving.

Who should come? Commissioners, pastors and educators are expected to be at Central Pine Bluff that evening but others will benefit from coming as well. This will be an exceptional opportunity to consider our call to be faithful and creative stewards of resources entrusted to our care.

I had the privilege of learning from Clif at last spring's Stewardship Kaleidoscope and found the experience eye-openingly candid, on target and specifically helpful.

We are fortunate to have Clif commit to being with us on October 12.

It's not going too much out on a limb to say that I guarantee you'll find yourself with greater insight into contemporary stewardship interpretation, with more excitement about supporting the ministries of Christ and with a renewed sense of the privilege of sharing the gifts we have been given to steward.

Grateful to be your partner in ministry,

Bill

General Presbyter's Out of Office Commitments

August-September

18 Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas, Colleague's Retirement Celebration

25 General Committee, First Presbyterian, Conway

25 Care and Nurture of Church Professionals, First Presbyterian, Conway

26-Sep 3 Vacation

08 Mission Committee, First Presbyterian, Conway

09 First Presbyterian, Batesville, Installation of Leslie Roper as pastor

11 Committee on Ministry and Cong. Care & Development, First Pres., Conway

12-14 Solar School, Fernduff

16 Adult Sunday School Class, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock

16 First Presbyterian, Ft. Smith, Installations of Phil and Tasha Blackburn as co-pastors

24 Called Meeting of Synod, Irving, Texas

29 Association of Executive Presbyters and Polity Conference, Louisville, KY

Presbytery Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa, AL

September 16-22, 2012

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

WHEN: We will leave on Sunday, September 16th and return late Saturday, September 22nd.

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

WHERE: We will be working in the area of Tuscaloosa, AL through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

WHY: We want to help to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Tuscaloosa

COST: The cost is \$220.00 (\$20 per day for room and board plus a \$100 deductible donation).

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: August 31, 2012 (Limited to 30 persons)

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335).

"Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which his compassion will look upon the world; yours are the feet with which he will go about doing good; yours are the hands with which he will

bless others now."
--St Teresa of Avila

Presbytery Seeks Youth Ministry Leader for Staff

The Administration Committee has appointed a Youth Ministry Advocate Search Committee to seek a part-time staff member to serve as the primary liaison between the Presbytery and the A-Team (formerly, Youth Council). This person will serve as a part-time member of the Presbytery's staff and provide support to the A-Team. He or she will lift up youth ministry as a key focus of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Organizationally, the staff member will be related to the Christian Education and Nurture Committee with accountability to the General Presbyter and the Personnel Sub-committee of the Administration Committee. Additional responsibilities may be assigned by the General Presbyter with the concurrence of the Administration Committee.

The staff person will be expected to participate in Presbytery staff meetings and assist the Presbytery in developing its ministries with youth. He or she will be the primary resource in planning A-Team events, such as YouthQuakes, mission trips and conferences etc. and will ensure that registration and all logistical matters are appropriately addressed.

This position is a 25-hour per month position and does not include benefits. Compensation will be based on Presbytery norms and the experience of the selected candidate. Knowledge of and participation in a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, a Bachelors degree and demonstrated experience in youth ministry leadership are desired.

Members of the Youth Ministry Advocate Search Committee are: Guy Delaney (moderator), Theresa Spragins (FPC, Conway), Gail Phillips (FPC, Jacksonville), Jeannie Ford (Second Presbyterian, Little Rock), and Mary Shaw (FPC, Springdale). The General Presbyter, Bill Galbraith, will serve as the staff support. Interested persons are invited to send résumés to the Presbytery office marked to the attention of Guy Delaney.

Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery

Director of Music Ministries -- First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas is seeking a part-time (25-30 hours per week) professional staff person to plan, coordinate, and direct worship music in a variety of styles from traditional to contemporary. We are seeking an experienced leader with a mature faith consistent with the Reformed Christian tradition, and an appreciation and understanding of both historic and contemporary worship traditions and music. For more information, please

consult the church website and the full position announcement at the following website address: <http://www.fupcfay.org/leadership/positions-open.aspx>.

Choir Director -- First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas, seeks a choir director for Wednesdays and Sundays. A job description and an application form are available by contacting the church at 870-741-2464 or jane@fpcharrison.org.

Public Communication of Renunciation of
Jurisdiction

(Book of Order, G-2.0509)

In light of charges being filed with the stated clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas, former teaching elder, Arthur Fogartie, has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). The effect of the renunciation is that the officer is no longer a Presbyterian and his name has been deleted from the appropriate roll of the Presbytery.

**Working Together to Alleviate Hunger!
From Your Mission Committee**

"I was hungry, and you gave me food..."

-- Matthew 25:35

In June of 2010, our Presbytery of Arkansas voted to make Hunger our "Unified Mission Emphasis" for 2011- 2013.

Since that time your Mission Committee has been working to fulfill that mandate. We sponsored a pre-presbytery workshop on hunger ministries in October of 2011. In addition we have been pleased to multiply your mission dollars by providing grants to:

-- the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro and Grace Presbyterian Church of Little Rock as they offered summer programs providing meals

and recreation to at-risk children and youth in their neighborhoods, the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church of Forrest City for its feeding program and other hunger ministries, and the Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church of Norman for its Gretta Lane Food Pantry and other hunger ministries;

-- Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center for its Garden, Nutrition, Education and Outreach program, a community garden serving as an instrument of mission education and providing food for Ferncliff guests and fresh vegetables/fruit for an area food pantry;

-- the Stewpot, feeding meals to the homeless, housed at First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, and the "Food for Kids" backpack Program of the Arkansas Rice Depot;

-- the Ferncliff-sponsored "Stop Hunger Now" project on June 1-2, 2012, in which over 30,000 meals were packaged and sealed to be distributed to students in schools in nations where hunger is rampant;

In addition, we've been pleased to recommend offerings at our presbytery meetings benefitting Centsability, "Stop Hunger Now," and the "Food for Kids" backpack program of the Arkansas Rice Depot.

Please help us continue our efforts to alleviate hunger! We encourage your church to be active and creative in beginning or growing ministries that feed hungry children and families and address the root causes of hunger. A brochure, Unified Mission Emphasis Hunger Grants, is located in "Presbytery Documents" on the presbytery's website. Check it out and send us your proposals for assistance with your congregation's hunger ministries!

Request from Your Presbytery Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

The hurricane season has already started. That can mean flooded houses and belongings. To help Church World Service prepare to help, can you or your congregation fill some disaster buckets?

Thanks to an Illinois Presbyterian who has an ice cream factory, Ferncliff received a windfall of 500 empty buckets and lids. You are invited to drive by the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) at Ferncliff and pick up a bucket or buckets. Call ahead at 501/821-3063 to be sure someone can meet you at the DAC; preferred times: Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm.

When you have filled the buckets, please return them to the DAC.

Here's the "bucket list":

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. lengths or one 100 ft. length

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.

--The Presbytery of Arkansas Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

People and Church News

News of Our People

--Congratulations to **Rev. Michael Vinson** and **Dr. Karen Young-Vinson** of Conway on the birth of a grandson, Athen Cole Young in Los Angeles on July 12. Parents are Jared and Debra Young. Michael is presbytery staff for vital congregations and Karen is a member of presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

--**Rev. James Westbrook**, honorably retired, and wife **Madie** have moved from Russellville to Jasper, AR.

--**Jessica Hubbard** is the new Children's Director of Ministry at First, Bentonville.

--**Rev. Bill Branch**, honorably retired, is filling in for **Rev. Susan Gray** at Mountainburg Presbyterian as part-time pulpit supply while the latter is on sabbatical leave this summer.

--**Rev. Kris Crawford**, interim pastor, and **Mi Kyung Hwang**, organist, were honored by First, Fort Smith, on July 29 as both completed their duties with the church.

--**Karene Jones** contributed the devotional and prayer for July 10, 2012 in the current issue of "These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith" published by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. She is a ruling elder at Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock and a member of presbytery's Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals.

News of Our Congregations

--**Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village**, will honor their Scottish heritage in worship on Sept. 23 with the Kirkin' o' the Tartans service including the Lyon College Pipe & Drum Band and a high tea reception.

--**First, Malvern** welcomed Cynthia Engstrom as guest preacher on June 24. She is the second winner of the Chidester Preaching Award that the church established to honor a student at Austin Seminary.

--**Mountainburg Presbyterian** held a healing and wholeness service on June 3.

--**Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock** will host the fall session of Friday Bible Study beginning on Sept. 7 with presbytery moderator Dr. David Dyer teaching on the Gospel of Luke.

--**First, Walnut Ridge** newsletter lists families in the church for whom to pray each Sunday.

--**First, Jacksonville** has formed a personnel committee and is updating their mission statement.

--**First, Benton** shares a fun game at their Second Thursday Fellowship potluck; bring a photo of yourself as a baby or child with your name on the back and attendees guess who is who.

--**First, Prairie Grove** has Salad and Scripture study on Wednesday nights.

--**Rev. Sam Williams** is filling in for **Rev. Stan Jagow**, pulpit supply at **Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy**, while the latter is recuperating from a heart attack.

--**Wynne Presbyterian** invites suggestions from the congregation for Bible passages, hymns or questions on the fruits of the Spirit this summer.

--**First, Pine Bluff** collected three-ring binders for needy school children in July.

--**First, Arkadelphia** has a book swap room to donate, retrieve or share favorite books after worship or during church office hours.

--**First, Huntsville** will host a cookout supper at the church on Sept. 2, followed by a youth concert to benefit their property fund.

--**First, Bentonville** provides a link on their website to Daily Devotions and Readings.

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock** hosted students from the Trimble House at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home, Monticello during spring break and took them to the Discovery Museum and out to dinner.

--**Hopewell Presbyterian, Morrilton** marked their 55th Annual Homecoming and Family Reunion Celebration on August 12 with worship followed by a dinner.

News of Our Clusters

--**Cluster II** (north central AR) will conduct their annual review of 2011 session minutes and registers at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, at First, Harrison as well as elect representatives from their cluster to General Committee and Committee on Clusters.

--**Cluster IX** (Pulaski County and environs) will conduct their review of 2011 records at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at the presbytery office.

--**Cluster V** (south central AR), **Cluster VII** (central western AR), and **Cluster IV** (eastern AR) have completed their reviews.

--**Cluster I** (northwest AR) and **Cluster III** (northeast AR) are holding elections this summer for cluster representatives.

Kids' Mini Mission Trip Continues to Grow



For the third year, children from the Presbytery of Arkansas have joined together to learn about and have hands on experiences in mission. Kids in grades 3 through 7 from Conway, Hot Springs, Malvern, and Springdale gathered at Westminster Church in Hot Springs to play, pray, study, and work together. Day one,

the kids bagged 5,672 servings of rice that will be distributed to food pantries across the state by the Arkansas Rice Depot. Day two, we joined

the staff at Jackson House in Hot Springs to prepare and distribute lunches to 125 people that came to receive a sack lunch and soup. Jackson House is also a food pantry and emergency fund distribution center so we worked bagging beans that would be part of the food boxes they distribute to the hungry in and around Hot Springs. "All work and no play" is not good, so we threw in an evening of swimming at DeGray Lake and a trip to the Mid-America Museum for fun. The children worked hard and showed great compassion to and for those in need as they shared God's love.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6.



Prayer List for Congregations - 2012 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).

Clusters 1 & 2 -- Thursday, September 6th at First United Presbyterian, Fayetteville
Cluster 3 -- Saturday, September 15th at First Presbyterian, Searcy
Cluster 4 -- Saturday, September 22nd at First Presbyterian, Stuttgart
Cluster 5 -- Wednesday, September 26th at Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman
Cluster 6 -- Saturday, October 6th at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith
Cluster 7 -- Saturday, August 4th at University of the Ozarks, Clarksville
Cluster 9 -- Saturday, September 8th at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock

(The PW Coordinating Team receives funding in the Presbytery budget.)

CENTRAL, PINE BLUFF TO HOST PRESBYTERY MEETING

On **Friday, October 12**, the Presbytery of Arkansas will gather for the 121st stated meeting at Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff. According to the planning team, the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with an Agape' meal hosted by the church. Orientation for new church professionals in the presbytery will precede the meeting from 1 until 5:15 p.m. and three pre-presbytery workshops ("Supporting Children and Families with Special Needs in Sunday School" and "Congregational Disaster Preparedness," both for anyone interested, and "Worship, the sacraments, and funerals" for commissioned ruling elders, graduates of the lay academy, and interested ruling elders) are offered from 3:15 until 5:15 p.m. Registration begins at 2:45 p.m.

Opening business begins at 6:30 p.m. From 7 to 9 p.m. J. Clif Christopher, founder and President of Horizons Stewardship Company, will present a plenary on financial stewardship for congregations. (See the General Presbyter's front page for details.)

The schedule for Saturday, Oct. 13 includes reports from the commissioners to General Assembly, welcoming new ministers, previewing the 2013 budget, examining a candidate for ordination, electing new committee members, and worship with communion. Worship offering will benefit The Stewpot ministry at First, Little Rock and the Ingathering items requested (packets of kool-aid, shampoo, and bar soap) will be given to CASA, a Pine Bluff agency that assists people affected by domestic abuse. The read-ahead packets for this presbytery meeting will be posted by September 22.

PRESBYTERY SUPPORTS PILGRIMAGE SCHOLARSHIPS



Through the Presbytery's financial support of the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage, ARPP announced the non-profit group may now scholarship up to five Presbyterian participants at the upcoming ARPP #17 Pilgrimage Weekend, scheduled for October 18-21, 2012, at Ferncliff.

"Pilgrimage is a wonderful three-day retreat from the world," said Debbie Cordell, ARPP Chair. "Each participant's experience is unique, depending upon their own faith journey, but participants so often tell us they had a close encounter with Jesus Christ-one which helped better prepare them for serving in their home church and community."

"We hope more than five people will take advantage of this Weekend, but we can scholarship up to five Presbyterians who need financial assistance in order to attend," added Cordell.

Deadline to register for the next Weekend is October 7th. To register (and to request up to \$200 in

scholarship assistance if needed), visit www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org, or call Sandra Phillips (Registrar) at 870-688-9819. Scholarships are confidential.

Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



RAVE REVIEWS

--Mary Vollman, First, Jonesboro reports that the Sunday School class Spiritual Paths thought that **"Adam Hamilton's Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics" (Acc. #DVD9185)** "was a great film, they all loved it, argued about it (in love, of course) and in the final analysis voted for it." This timely 97-minute, 5 session study includes a DVD, leader guide and book.

--Burnis Leavens, clerk of session at the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, praises **"Play and Pray Bible for Young Children" (Acc. #BK7206)** and **"Pray & Play Bible 2 For Young Children" (Acc. #BK8083)**, used with their pre-schoolers for the four mornings of Vacation Bible School. She liked that the books "gave large colorful pictures with a small amount of words per page plus finger plays, art ideas, songs and even cookie ideas. They used the simple stories, a different one for each day, and built the day's activities around that idea of God's love for all."

--Kate Reecer, First, Benton recommends **"What's So Amazing About Grace?" (Acc. #DVD9301)** kit which includes the 10-session DVD, leader's guide, participants' guides and book to help groups discuss, struggle and contend graciously with today's tough personal and community issues.

TRAINING FOR RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS is often scheduled in the fall. Here are some new ideas, the first three available in hardcopy or electronically from YOUR Resource Center through thepresbyterianleader.com:

"The Approved Presbyterian New Form of Government: An overview of what has changed and what has not"

"Selecting and Preparing Ruling Elders and Deacons" study divided among sections of "Theological Basis: Why We Prepare and Examine for Ordination," "The Examination: What Councils Are Called to Do," "Practical Applications: What, Specifically, Should the Session Do" complete with questions for reflection.

"Rules of Discipline from the Book of Order" study divided among "Theological Foundations: Discipline and the True Church," "Basics of Disciplinary Process: It's All about Fairness," "Remedial or Disciplinary: Dealing with Process or Dealing with People," "Finding another Way: Alternatives and Limitations," and "Conclusion-Justice, Grace, and Redemption."

--Two classic books have been revised by Geneva Press for the New Form of Government: **"Selected to Serve: A Guide for Church Leaders" second edition (Acc. #BK9661 or 9663)** and

"Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders" fourth edition (Acc. #BK9662 or 9664)

--Finally revised and now on DVD is **"To All Generations: The Book of Confessions" (Acc. #DVD9671 or 9672)** which is an appropriate addition to officer training sessions, new member and confirmation classes and other adult education settings. Each confession in Part I of the PC(USA) constitution can be viewed individually or a viewer can divide the documents according to four distinct eras of church history.

"Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal" will be published in the fall and contains 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs along with worship material and indices. Every congregation should have already received the small hymnal sampler. Information about the complete list of contents, products, samples of the four cover options, pricing, and numerous articles about the new hymnal and worship in general are available at www.PresbyterianHymnal.org Free shipping is available on orders paid for by the end of the year, and the pew edition will be available for \$15. As quickly as they are released, YOUR Resource Center will have available for your preview hymnal editions of enlarged print and for

display and accompaniment plus the companion edition.

REMEMBER OUR ONLINE CATALOG! Just go to the www.presbyteryofarkansas.org website, click on "Resources," then on "Resource Center" and "click here to search the catalog" to conduct a simple or advanced search for just the right item.

(The Resource Center receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

Growing Personal Stewardship

Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts

Mark Your Calendar

TPF's Conference: **GPS**, *Expanding Ministry Through Legacy Gifts*
Texas Presbyterian Foundation is hosting a two-day conference at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church located at 9800 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230.

Wednesday, September 26th from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

Thursday, September 27th from 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m.

Principal Speaker & Conference Leader:

Kathryn Miree

Presbyterian Elder and nationally recognized speaker on Estate & Planned Giving
Topics Will Include:

- * From Theory to Practice: Building a Church/Nonprofit Endowment
 - * Planned Giving Fundamentals
 - * Getting Started in Planned Giving
- * Talking to Donors About Endowment and Planned Gifts

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Conference Fee: \$75



Small Church Pastor's Retreat at Mo-Ranch

October 15-18, 2012



The Small Church Pastors' Retreat is an annual collaborative effort between Mo-Ranch, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Synod of the Sun. We are delighted to be working together to provide a quality affordable event in a restful place where pastors who serve small congregations might reflect on their ministry and receive inspiration and renewal through study, fellowship, worship, rest and relaxation. Financial support from all three sponsors has made this dream a reality! This event has been designed for all pastors serving churches whose regular worship attendance is fewer than 150 persons. Commissioned ruling elders, stated supply pastors, interim pastors and full or part time teaching elders are all welcome to join us.

Pastors will learn to use a Family Systems' approach for leading their congregations in anxious times from the Rev. Dr. David Jones (a presenter at our February presbytery meeting). Other highlights of the conference will include workshops from Dr. Jones and others (including Texas Presbyterian Foundation's Melinda Hunt), as well as renewing worship and ample free time.

[Click Here for more information, including a brochure](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

General Presbyter [BILL GALBRAITH](#)

Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

Resourcing Director & Assistant Stated Clerk [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth OPEN

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

Treasurer [WES SHAVER](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [SHEREE NIECE](#)

Moderator of the General Committee [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)



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

We are composed of over 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, two new church developments and two fellowships located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>