

From: Presbytery of Arkansas <brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org>

Subject: The Banner

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February 2012

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



"Love's Particularity"
State of the Presbytery
General Presbyter's Report to the Presbytery
Bill Galbraith

Lyon College, February 18, 2012

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Through your generous sharing of money, time and ability, we are a blessed Presbytery. We continue to have the necessary resources but, as importantly, a desire to follow God's lead with creativity and boldness. We have enough. It is a privilege to work with an energetic, skilled staff and with other capable leaders. Thank you for this opportunity.



This meeting's format is intended to be one in which we are better equipped for the ministry to which God calls us. We have been nurtured by David Jones and Laura Mendenhall, by Clare Kelly and Randi Henderson. Please thank them when you see them.

We have attempted to use your financial gifts responsibly. As an example, overall personnel costs have been reduced by 18% from 2008. Your financial support is critical. With just over half of our congregations making pledges for 2012, we have a way to go. But we're halfway there. I hope that you will ask your session to make a pledge and also suggest to the Presbytery Nominating Committee your best to be considered for Presbytery leadership. We sometimes want to hoard our best leaders, keep them to ourselves and from exposure to the larger church. Last year, however, a ruling elder member of the Committee on Ministry spoke about his experience as he finished his term, "It was the most significant experience I've had in my many years of serving the church."

You can also help today by taking time to comment on this meeting of the Presbytery as we seek God's help in focusing our meetings toward developing leadership for a changing church. The quality of our life as the body of Christ is a primary indicator of how we are building the capacity to reflect our love for one another and our gratitude to God in all that we do and in all that we are.

We are well into a new era as Presbyterians with a revised polity, with heartfelt disagreements over biblical interpretation, with questions related to ordination standards but a common desire to be vital congregations reaching out because we have been reached through the love of Christ. Ours is a freedom to be less regulatory, more mission focused. We Presbyterians will continue to become flatter in organizational

structure and more intentional about fostering vital congregations vibrantly involved in the specific mission to which God is calling them.

"In times of uncertainty," Tom Are says, "we long for certainty." But, *"When it feels chaotic and confusing certainty is a seductive companion. It is a natural but not necessarily good thing to long for clarity and certainty."* [1]

Instead, in times of seeking assurance, the window of faith opens to greater trust in God, to deeper dependency on the gifts of the Spirit and to commitment to live into our calling to love one another. Loving faith dispels fear. "Fear not! Don't be scared!" are gospel encouragements because, "Love wins," not just because Rob Bell proposes it but because God has determined it. [2] "Love," we are reminded, "Doesn't see the crowd, it sees the face." [3] Love is particular not general.

When I was seven, living with my family in the two-story frame manse behind First Presbyterian Church, in Gatesville, Texas, I was frequently afraid someone was hiding in the bathroom closet that ran for about 15 feet along the length of that cave-like bathroom. The closet didn't have a door, just a floral print curtain Mother had pinch skewered on a rod hanging over the opening. As much as I dreaded it, the only remedy for fear was getting up, walking into that bathroom, flipping on the light and looking into that dark closet. Each time I became scared and dared walk toward that room, I discovered, "There's nothing here." There never was, even though I dreaded there could be. In time, the fear subsided and I no longer had to get up and look. Do you wonder today if the church is like a seven-year-old imagining something to fear that may not be there? I wonder why we refuse to look and seem to prefer being afraid. What is the closet today for you or your church? What is it for us as a Presbytery?

For some, that spooky closet is what other people think, a fear born perhaps out of forgetfulness of who we are. Let me be specific. Here and there, but primarily in the small communities of our presbytery, some of us Presbyterians have been under attack by our more theologically certain neighbors. Because the Presbyterian Church USA is perceived to be too liberal particularly in relationship to the full inclusion of all people into the life of the church, these brothers and sisters feel ostracized, even attacked. These good neighbors are viewed suspiciously and are sometimes categorized as un-Christian, because as their certain neighbors are only too quick to remind them, "My Bible says..." Granted, it's not just the non-Presbyterians who are pointing fingers. Some Presbyterians in these communities feel that our Presbyterian Church USA is in error scripturally and theologically. In some circles, the chaos and confusion have been corralled by attempting to lasso that certainty which views scripture more as a guidebook for morality than a love story of redemption. Pick the conundrum and the Bible has an answer. Trouble is, it doesn't. Inflexible rigidity arises around particular issues when a key principle of Reformed theology is overlooked, "Scripture interprets scripture." The full context is important but frequently incompletely considered in the refrain, "My Bible says..."

Scripture witnesses to something beyond the words printed on its pages. It is like the hand gesturing toward the moon. Focus only on the hand and miss the moon. Scripture points to a grand saga of God's creating, delivering, sustaining, and restoring work in Jesus Christ, of death's comeuppance and a hope from which we cannot ever be separated. Seen in this light, the Bible is less a manual of operations than a love story in which all that has been broken is being restored and all that is estranged is being reconciled.

Today, there is an opportunity to remember that we are not who others say we are. We are who God says we are: "Beloved," "First loved," "Heirs with Christ," "Mine," whose great privilege and purpose is to enjoy God and love in return. Love not the crowd but the face in the crowd: the one we live with, or work with, or squabble with, or want to

avoid. The commitment to love and the invitation to enjoy God doesn't allow space to be afraid. Instead, it invites us to be as expansive in our welcome as God has been to us. Isaiah reminds us of the love affair God has with God's chosen:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine... For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Is. 43:1b-3a)

Some years ago, I had been invited by a Pastor Nominating Committee to become the pastor of a wonderful congregation. As we prayed about the decision, we decided it would be a good idea to visit that church for worship. We packed our bags and drove early one Sunday morning down to Texas from Oklahoma. The church was known for its long-held tradition of high liturgy. There were kneelers in every pew and needle pointed kneeling benches in the chancel. Sunday mornings, the choir always processed in cassocks and surplices. That particular Sunday, the crucifer leading the procession was a tall, slender man, probably 6'3". As he carried the cross down the tiled central aisle extending it high above our heads, it was impossible to miss his sense of delight, the glow of his broad smile and his bright eyes. Sibyl, my wife, leaned over to me and asked, "Have you ever seen anyone enjoy worship like that?" Today, I remember that Sunday and the tall man, Dick, whom I soon had the privilege of serving alongside as pastor. He was a Viet Nam veteran, a member of the adult choir, a successful travel agent, a trusted friend and a compassionate soul with a teachable heart. He was a quiet man of prayer and unwavering commitment to others.

Thursday mornings at 7 a.m., Dick was always in the chapel for morning prayer. He fixed breakfast afterward before going to his job downtown. When he was approached by the Nominating Committee one summer to become an elder, he said he would pray about it. He did. He agreed to be nominated but only on the condition that his service would help not harm the church. He said, "I want you to know that if God has called me to service in the church I love, I will accept. But I also want you to know that I am gay." Because the church knew Dick as a man of faith, a man who loved his country and served it, a man who regularly and without fanfare helped those who most needed a hand, because it was Dick who cooked sausage and pancakes on Thursday mornings, because the church knew Dick to be a child of God, the congregation elected him unanimously. They didn't see a category. They saw a face they loved.

Years later, news came that Dick had developed cancer and that while he was fighting valiantly, his time was limited. A few weeks later, Dick died. At the service of Witness to the Resurrection, Dick's sister came to the pulpit and said simply, "There is something you probably have experienced but didn't know." She said, "In our family, Dick was always known as, 'the white sheep.'"

Friends, we are to make visible the Body of Christ which continues to draw others to him. Welcome this calling. Embrace it with the fullness that saints like Dick demonstrate. No one demanded that Dick enter the ordered service of Ruling Elder, no polity required it and none prohibited it. A congregation called him as chosen by God. He was not a category. He was a child of God with a face in which the image of God was unmistakable. Christ has already broken down every barrier that would hurt or divide us. It's done. In their place, there is now this open pathway to the highest of all callings: loving obedience to Jesus Christ our Lord through whom we find perfect freedom to enjoy God forever. Shall we?

[1] Tom Are, Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Mid-Winter Lectures 2012

[2] Rob Bell, *Love Wins*

[3] Ibid. Tom Are



Rev. Ruskin Falls, Rev. Clare Kelley, Rev. Dr. David Dyer, Rev. Susan Rose, Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith, Rev. Dr. Debbie Freeman, ruling elder Sam Highsmith, candidate Cameron Highsmith

Lyon College, Batesville Hosts 119th Stated Meeting of Presbytery
Friday-Saturday, February 17-18, 2012

NiAnn Thompson, Assistant Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Arkansas convened Friday evening, February 17, 2012 in the Brown Chapel at Lyon College after two pre-presbytery workshops. Moderator Ruling Elder Sam Highsmith called the meeting to order for the opening session of business, then divided the house so all could attend workshops by Dr. David Jones of Austin Seminary on "Conflict is Systemic" and Dr. Laura Mendenhall on "How much is ENOUGH to be Christ's Church?" Dr. and Mrs. Donald Weatherman hosted a reception to end the evening.

The meeting resumed the next morning for a plenary presentation by Jones on "Peace is Systemic." At the morning worship service Teaching Elder Dr. David Dyer was installed as moderator. Worship leaders were Cameron Highsmith, Revs. Clare Kelley, Ruskin Falls, Debra Carl Freeman, outgoing moderator Sam Highsmith preached, and Revs. Susan Rose and Bill Galbraith officiated at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Music was presented by the Batesville Choral Society, Lyon College Concert Chorale, organist Dr. Russell T. Stinson and the pipers. A total of 208 people (139 of whom were voting commissioners) registered for the meeting and the worship offering for the Presbytery of AR scholarship at Lyon College totaled \$1, 360.46. Twenty-four youth advisory delegates added to the meeting.

PRESBYTERY VOTED TO:



Outgoing moderator Sam Highsmith turns the gavel over to new moderator David Dyer

- Dissolve commissions that installed two pastors
- Approve a Background Check Policy for active members of the Presbytery and teaching elders serving within the bounds
- Approve the 2012 presbytery budget totaling \$979,200 and the terms of call for General Presbyter Bill Galbraith
- Elect three ministers to fill unexpired terms on committees and elect one new member of Committee on Nominations
- Enroll Rev. Kris Crawford and Rev. Maetta Snyder as new members of presbytery
- Approve call of Rev. Lance Jones as pastor of First, Mena; his terms of call; and the

Administrative Commission to install him on March 18

- Approve terms of call for Rev. Emmett Powers as temporary supply at First, Batesville
- Approve terms of covenant for Rev. Bill Branch, honorably retired, as part-time interim pastor at Wynne Presbyterian and later in the year as part-time pulpit supply at Mountainburg Presbyterian
- Waive limitation of terms for ruling elders at West End Presbyterian, Arkadelphia
- Approve a lower loan rate for Allison Presbyterian, Little Rock with Presbyterian Church Investment and Loan Program, Inc.
- Change references in the Presbytery's Policy for Schismatic Churches to reflect current Book of Order
- Enroll Ethan Harbour as an inquirer in ministry, enroll Cameron Highsmith as a candidate in ministry and remove Ben Brisben from the roll of inquirers
- Create and populate an Administrative Commission for West Fork Presbyterian
- Approve Rev. Robert Lowry as interim pastor for Harmony and First, Clarksville
- Renew covenant between First, Lonoke and Stated Supply Rev. Rebecca Spooner
- Dissolve the pastoral relation between Rev. Shauna Silmon and Grace, Little Rock
- Authorize exploring sale of presbytery's property on Chenal Parkway in Little Rock

CHANGES VOTED TO PRESBYTERY DOCUMENTS:
Both the Presbytery's Standing Rules and the Manual of Operations will be altered to remove the position of Associate General Presbyter and change the name of General Council to General Committee.

The Manual of Operations will be altered to: reduce the size of the Committee on Congregational Care and Development, delete some responsibilities of the Committee on Nominations, balance composition of the total Nominations Committee rather than balancing each class of its members, allow General Council to fill unexpired terms on committees which action presbytery will later ratify, delete disaster response from Committee on Mission responsibilities, reduce number of Committee on Mission meetings, and revise and reduce the treasurer's job description.



New inquirer Ethan Harbour with U of O Chaplain Nancy Benson-Nicol

PRESBYTERY HEARD REPORTS OF:

- Thanks to congregations for their 2011 giving and encouragement on pledging for 2012
- Introduction of new Director of Mission Support Kenneth Rich, a member of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
- Carpathian Basin Water/Solar Project of Arkansas Presbytery's PW Coordinating Team
- New treasurer Wes Shaver
- Ferncliff's "state of the camp" report
- New president of Mo-Ranch in Hunt, Texas

PRESBYTERY READ REPORTS OF:

- An alleged offense filed in the office of the Stated Clerk and referred to an investigating committee
- General Council's decision to discontinue rotation of committees reporting to presbytery, Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals to have responsibility for education required by presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy, renew covenant with Presbyterian Black Caucus, Committee on Christian Education and Nurture to offer continuing education events in June and October for lay academy graduates, approve communion at Youth Council-sponsored events, approve dividing the June Presbytery meeting worship offering between "Stop Hunger Now" and "Food for Kids Backpack"; and clarify policy on guest speakers at presbytery meetings.
- Committee on Ministry's transferral of Revs. Judith Kelley Hardie and Denton McLellan; departure of stated supply Don Thomas from First, Paragould; additions to pulpit supply list; change duties of people on Administrative Commissions to install pastors; schedule two training events for ruling elders to officiate at communion
- Committee on Care and Nurture of Church Professionals annual report
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry's list of all inquirers and candidate, continuing to operate under the current Manual of Operations until further study
- Necrology of four ministers prayed for in worship
- 2011 report from AR Black Presbyterian Caucus and their calendar for events in 2012
- Request for information on retiree programs from local churches
- Financial reports for 12/31/11
- Youth Council Infobook 2012, MoRanch Junior High Jubilee, Montreat Youth Conference flyers
- Annual Spring Retreat in March; Faith and Environmental Justice Retreat, Annual Retreat for professionals in April, Pilgrimage weekend and PW Spring Gathering in April

A Coal Hill Revival

Revival is not often used in Presbyterian circles, but one might say that the Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Coal Hill has had a revival. Not too long ago, the church closed its doors for the last time. But late last year the doors were open again - to move the pews, pulpit, piano, organ and other furniture to the Unity Southern Baptist Church near London. Unity recently built a new building with members providing much of the labor, but they had no furnishings.

When Rev. Ron Jones, a member of the former commission to close the church in Coal Hill, discovered their need, an offer was made. A few days later, members of the Unity Church moved furnishings from the Ferguson Memorial building to the Unity building. On Sunday January 1, 2012 the Unity Southern Baptist Church had their first service in their new building, and it will be, so to speak, a revival of the Ferguson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

You and Your Presbytery Disaster Preparation and Response Committee

Storms have hit the Presbytery of Arkansas hard from Mena to Mountain Home in recent years. Where they may hit next is anybody's guess. So, it is incumbent upon us to be as prepared as possible. Here are some ways that the Disaster Preparation and Response Committee can help you.

The presbytery website,

<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/firmDisasterResponse.aspx> has some excellent information for disaster preparation and recovery. There is an inclusive pre-disaster checklist on the site broken into three categories: small, medium, and large churches.

Find a concerned member of your congregation and review this checklist; you may save lives. Many counties and some churches have already implemented disaster plans and would be most willing to share those ideas with your church. The checklist on the website would make a good addendum to your local directives and preparation.

It is imperative that the Disaster Preparation and Response Committee and the Presbytery office have some local contact numbers for your church in case we need to arrange for assistance and recovery efforts in your community. Please send names, phone numbers, and email addresses of key contacts to info@presbyteryofarkansas.org and to committee chair, Liz Branch, at erbranch@comcast.net If you would like more information on disaster preparation, you may send your request to the same addresses. Disasters are extremely traumatic and often destroy much that we hold irreplaceable. Following a disaster, both responders and survivors may need spiritual and emotional care. A helpful guide for providing such care is the booklet "Light Our Way", which is available through the presbytery Resource Center.

By the way, our presbytery has a disaster recovery fund for use within our presbytery and donations are most welcome. Requests for financial assistance flow through the committee and presbytery office as well as to the national Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Please start now to make some disaster preparations for your congregation and pray they are never needed.

What is Your Church's Success Story for Retirees?

The Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture is charged with the responsibility to "develop and provide to congregations strategies, programs, and resources for ministry to older adults." The committee now invites each congregation to email programs you have in place for retired folks (your members or people in the community), especially your two or three most popular or most innovative programs, by March 15 to cwill3944@gmail.com

These will be compiled for sharing in The Banner or in the pre-meeting packets of the presbytery. Thank you!

Nominations Committee Seeks Willing Workers

As your Sessions meet in February, please consider discussing and suggesting talented

members of your congregation for service beginning in January, 2013 on presbytery committees. A form for this purpose has been emailed to every church and is available on the Presbytery's website or you may email niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org with names and contact information before March 1.

Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women 2012

Saturday, April 28

Kirk of the Pines

Hot Springs Village

Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol

Author of 2012-13

Horizons Bible study

Worship Leader

Karene Jones

Global Exchange Participant

Keynote Mission Speaker

PW Ladies Society of Chiapas, Mexico

Offering Recipient

Pink Hat Day

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Honoring our Presbyterian

Women and Friends of Vera Lloyd

10:00 am.....Campus Tours

11:00 am.....Registration

12:00-1:30 pm.....Lunch & Program

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home

Lyon Gymnasium

745 Old Warren Road

Monticello, AR 71655

You are cordially invited to enjoy YOUR day that will include:

Campus tours

Door Prizes

Youth Style Show

Awarding of the 3rd Annual "Traveling Pink Hat Award"

Annual judging of the "BEST" Pink Hat!

Seated Lunch provided (at tables) with your friends and youth!

Unmatched Fellowship, Frivolity and Inspiration

And, a few Surprises that we are keeping under our hat!

So decorate your pink hat, grab your friends & join us!

RSVP by April 1 to reneedickins@veralloyd.org or Regina at 877-353--6430

People and Church News

News of Our People

--Christian sympathy goes to Mrs. Soon-Yi Kim and family on the death on January 29, 2012 of Rev. Byung-Mook Kim, a minister member of the presbytery, in Korea. At the time of his death, Rev. Kim was pastor of the Korean Fellowship meeting at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith.

--Lynn Condra has completed eight years as Director of Christian Education at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith and will be retiring. She is a Certified Associate Christian Educator.

--Rev. Orin Frank, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, was honored on his 80th birthday with a party at the Senator Ed Wilkinson Community Center in Bell Park, Greenwood on Feb. 5.

--Rev. Walter Swetnam of Batesville, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, is recuperating from pneumonia.

--Ruling Elder Martha Moore of Conway is hospitalized at St. Vincent's Hospital in Little Rock after surgery. She is a member of the presbytery's Committee on Congregational Care and Development.

--Rev. Don Campbell of Little Rock, honorably retired, is recuperating from surgery.

--Christian sympathy goes to Rick and Sheree' Niece of Clarksville on the death of her grandmother Evelyn Wallick in Strasburg, Ohio on Feb. 15. Sheree' is the vice moderator of the presbytery this year.

News of Our Congregations

--First, Newport plans picnics at Jacksonport State park on April 8 and August 26.

--First, Harrison's men served a sweetheart breakfast for all the women of the church on Feb. 12.

--First, Prairie Grove heard from Renee Dickins of Vera Lloyd Home, thanking the Presbyterian Women for 30 years of support.

--First, Searcy holds a Healing and Wholeness Service and serves communion to homebound members on the fifth Sunday of the month.

--First, Benton's Junior Presbyterian Youth sponsored the annual Chili Cookoff on Feb. 1 as a fundraiser for youth attending camps and conferences this summer.

--Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy reports their Presbyterian Women are tying quilts and enjoying a Girls' Day Out on Thursday mornings.

--First, Jacksonville will begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 22 and continue with Wednesday night prayer and meditation times.

--Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs marked Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 5 with a soup and dessert potluck and connected canned soup for a local feeding agency.

--Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville joined First, Clarksville for a special worship service at Raymond Munger Chapel at University of the Ozarks on Jan. 22.

--First, Fort Smith women participated in the Annual Moms' Day of Prayer for children of all ages.

--Pulaski Heights Presbyterian, Little Rock is hosting refreshments, fellowship and Friday Morning Bible Study through April 13 on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah led by Rev. David Dyer.

Rev. Don Campbell of Little Rock, honorably retired, is recuperating from surgery. Also Christian sympathy goes to Rick and Sheree' Niece of Clarksville on the death of her grandmother Evelyn Wallick in Strasburg, Ohio on Feb. 15. Sheree' is the vice moderator of the presbytery this year.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

--Youth at First, Jonesboro started "Jar in the Car" coin collection for the congregation. On the last Sunday of the month members are invited to empty their money jars into the

communal jar so the funds can be used for the local schools' backpack feeding ministry.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2012 can be found [here](#).

Save the Date

Annual Spring Church Retreat

Last Call for registration for the Annual Retreat for churches "Being the Church God Is Calling You to Be" at Ferncliff March 1-3. Register online [HERE](#) or print out a mail-in registration form [HERE](#). Deadline to register is Feb. 24.

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage
(formerly Cursillo)

April 26-29

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

More information is available [here](#).

(Pilgrimage receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Mo-Ranch College Connection

May 14-18

Are you a college student? Do you know any college students?

This summer college students will gather at Mo-Ranch to relax and recharge both in faith and friendship.

Director: Rev. Kendal Land, pastor, First, Arkadelphia

Co-Director: Rev. Susan Rose, United Campus Ministry, University of Arkansas

More information can be found [here](#).

Presbyterian Women News

can be found [here](#).

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

[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.

LENT IS ALMOST HERE! TRUST YOUR RESOURCE CENTER FOR HELP

"Embracing Emergence Christianity: Phyllis Tickle on the Church's Next Rummage Sale" (Acc. #DVD9616) is a six-session DVD/book which looks back at the church's upheavals occurring every 500 years, examines the implications of these culturally and spiritually, addresses the key questions and issues and asks where we are headed next.

"Why? Making Sense of God's Will" (Acc. #DVD9609) by Adam Hamilton is a four-session study on DVD, with leader guide and book that wrestles with questions like "Where is God when the innocent suffer? Where is God when my prayers go unanswered? Why is God's will so hard to understand?"

"24 Hours That Changed the World" (Acc. #DVD9614) intergenerational collection, also by Adam Hamilton, includes leader guide, 7 sessions with about 10 minutes each of DVD presentation, youth book, children's book and 3 copies of the hardback adult book.

"Final Words from the Cross" (Acc. #DVD9615) DVD with leader guide and book offers 7 sessions of



small-group study on Jesus' final words on the cross through the perspective of the witnesses and those on the Emmaus road.

"KJV: The Making of the King James Bible" (Acc. #DVD9613) is subtitled "still a bestseller after 400 years" since 2011 marked that anniversary. DVD looks at the process of translation by a committee of 47 professors in the days of Shakespeare. 46 minutes.

"The Power of Forgiveness" (Acc. #DVD9587 or VC9256) DVD and study guide presenting four sessions on the origin, definition, reasons for and possibilities of forgiveness.

"Open to Me the Gates" (Acc. #BK9604) book by the current Stated Clerk of the denomination Gradye Parsons, explores the conceptual use of gates throughout the Bible in six chapters with suggested hymns, a study guide and reflection questions.

ILLUSTRATED, ENGAGING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN DURING LENT

"Nine Fruits Alive" (Acc. #BK9547) on the fruits of the Spirit.

"Does God Ever Sleep?" (Acc. #BK9548) imagines God's role in bringing nighttime to the world around children (ages 3-6)

"The Apostles' Creed" (Acc. #BK9549) for early elementary grade children to learn of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

"The Jesus Book" (Acc. #BK9569) includes a 30-song CD

"Hear My Prayer" (Acc. #BK9572) combines classic and original children's prayers

"The Lion Book of Day-by-Day Prayers" (Acc. #BK9574) is "an enduring collection of prayers (for children) for every mood and season"

"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (Acc. #BK9606) tells the story behind the world's most beloved children's song

USE THAT TIME ON THE ROAD TO LEARN ABOUT 'THE WAY'

Cassette tapes of the following titles of the "Great Courses" are now available for loan to our patrons:

"The Old Testament," "The New Testament," "The Historical Jesus," "Jesus and the Gospels," "From Jesus to Constantine," and "Lost Christianities."

CHECK OUT THESE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXAM KITS

"Operation Overboard: Dare to go deep with God!" from Cokesbury, "Amazing Desert Journey" from Concordia, and many undated, permanent VBS possibilities. We also have previously published exam kits free for the asking and a chart comparing this year's major VBS publishers.

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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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 [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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.

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