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September 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"God's Already Seen It"

On Labor Day weekend we worshipped with the Baptists in San Antonio. We had gone to help my in-laws, Bob and Blu, get to know their newest great-granddaughter and stayed over Sunday for worship at their church just down the hill from Trinity University.



Walking into Trinity Baptist, the first thing a visitor experiences is a warm welcome, a genuine "Glad you're here." hello. Front door greeters bid a good morning. Greeters by the sanctuary doors extend a hand and another spoken welcome as they distribute bulletins. But some of the friendliest welcomers are the "special friends" of Trinity, a group of mentally challenged adults whose delight at offering hospitality radiates contagiously among those gathering to praise God. One, Pat, came back two pews to give a special greeting to my wife, Sibyl. He called her by name. How he knew that we still don't know, but believe he paid careful attention to the conversations he could hear two rows down. Oh, and there was another greeter in the sanctuary. Pastor Les walked among the pews as the congregation assembled speaking a personal welcome to all he could reach. He does this every Sunday. A bio says that Les has had a history of leading churches toward new life and growth.

Trinity is a large church by Presbyterian standards. Years ago, it was much larger. After a long-time pastor had difficulty moving on effectively, the church split leaving a remnant to rebuild with God's help. To a first-time visitor, it seems they are well on their way. Here is a large congregation that emphasizes the personal touch. At the conclusion of the service the congregation held hands, reached across the aisles and sang the Lord's Prayer. The hymns change; taking each other by the hand doesn't.

After worship, we made our way to the children's ministry area, a focal point of church life. Entering the area one is transported into the menagerie of Noah's ark. The creative spirit behind this area is Bob and Blu's daughter, Shawn Bridges. Off the central two-story atrium rotunda are classrooms. In one direction Old Testament characters populate the walls. The other wing features New Testament themes. A spiral staircase lifts visitors from depictions of some of the larger land creatures, lions and tigers and elephants to the more ethereal birds of the air. There's even an aardvark munching on ants scurrying along a baseboard. The creation of the murals and other wildlife scenes has been a multi-year labor of love for God. When a visiting nun asked Shawn how she would feel if the building burned and all the art was lost, Shawn responded, "That would be alright. I did this for God and God has already seen it."

One has the feeling that at Trinity Baptist the culture of "giving it all away" has taken root. Giving away welcome, giving away encouragement, giving away opportunities to serve, giving one's best for God. When it's done so cheerfully one can't help but notice and want to go back.

Grace always,
[Bill](#)

(For a view of the artwork at Trinity Baptist, Google Shawn Kingston Bridges and see Gallery One.)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule

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A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Elders Rule . . . When They Serve

This catchy phrase was on the event t-shirt for the second Elder Conference sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly. It builds upon the historic reference of elders as "Ruling Elders".

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We have all been strengthened in our faith through some of these saints of the church. We know that their service has been most effective when we have seen their servant leadership, attending to the more difficult tasks of the church, loving, forgiving. It is their parity in ministry, along with Teaching Elders, that makes the Presbyterian Church different from all other denominations.

Ruling Elders: The ministry of Discernment and Governance, G-2.03

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118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, October 14-15, 2011 - First Presbyterian, Conway

Friday

1:30-6:10 p.m. Orientation of new church professionals

2:30 p.m. Registration opens

3:00-5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops (choose one)

a. Hunger Emphasis (three speakers: demographics of Arkansas hunger, starting a food pantry and beginning a community garden)

b. Feasting on the Word Curriculum (Linda LeBron)

c. Planning and Leading a Service of Healing and Wholeness (Rev. Tom Ulrich)

d. Caring for Family & Parishioners When Cognition and Health are Compromised
(Dr. Karen Young-Vinson)

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11:30 a.m. Order of the Day to recognize graduates of the lay academy

Lunch served by host church after which business may continue

Highlights: Welcome of new ministers, workshop within meeting on decisions by congregations to be made in light of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order, annual reports of Committee on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response (bring those flood buckets please!), Presbyterian Women. Worship offering recipient is Cents-ability. Ingathering recipient is Bethlehem House in Conway, a community homeless shelter, and particular needed items are non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies.

The meeting packet will be posted on the Presbytery website by Sept. 26.

Committee on Mission Invites You to a Pre-Presbytery Workshop

by [Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington](#), Moderator

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, at First, Conway, the Committee on Mission will host a workshop to offer information, encouragement, and networking opportunities for those wanting to do more to meet the challenge of hunger in their communities.

State Representative Kathy Webb will present a picture of hunger in Arkansas. Vicki Gill, a founder of Partners for Progress of Perry County, a food pantry in operation for over two decades, will speak about beginning and maintaining a food pantry in your church or community. Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, associate pastor at First United Methodist, Conway, will share the story of her work with a "community garden," a project that has not only provided food for people in need, but also an opportunity to bring together neighbors whose paths may never have crossed.

Whether you are a long-time worker in the campaign against hunger, or feel led to help begin a project in your church or community, we hope you will join us. Sharing our experiences is one of the ways in which God can equip us for this ministry!

People and Church News

News of Our People

- **Sarah Akin** of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock has been commissioned as a Young Adult Volunteer by PC(USA) and is being deployed to Nashville to assist with disaster recovery. Sarah is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Karen and Doug Akin. Karen is associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- **Rev. Bill Christman**, honorably retired interim pastor at First, Mena, continues recuperating in Denver from a fall and injuries.
- **Rev. Richard Miller** of Paron, honorably retired, is at home, recuperating from recent surgery.
- Prayers continue for Educator **Lynn Condra** and **Rev. Shauna Silmon** as they care for Lynn's daughter/ granddaughters, Shauna's sister/nieces after an auto accident. Maddison Rodery is at home in Claremore, Oklahoma and MaKenna is hospitalized in St. Louis, attended by her mother Marcia. Lynn is Director of Christian Education at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith and Shauna is pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- **Marc van Bulck** is the new Youth Director at First, Bentonville.
- Christian sympathy is extended to **Rev. David and Letha Laverty**, honorably retired, of Jonesboro in the death of their son Michael on July 4.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Drew and Rhonda Travis** on the birth of a grandson, Hayden Emmanuel Avila, on August 30. Mother and father are Jesse and Esteban Avila. Drew is pastor of First, Conway.

News of Our Congregations & Ministries

- **First, Ozark** recently had a music and word worship service conducted by Joyce Hamilton-Whitson, who was assisted by her husband, Chuck Whitson.
- **First, McGehee** will celebrate their centennial September 30-October 2. For more information call 870.222.3599 or email fpcmcg@sbcglobal.net.
- The congregation of **West Fork Presbyterian** enjoys a fellowship dinner the first Sunday of every month. "Money jars" are placed on the tables to collect money for the Centsability hunger program. (*Presbytery's Committee on Mission distributes the proceeds of the Centsability program.*)
- **Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village** plans a mission trip to Louisiana's Project Homecoming October 23-29.
- **First, Brinkley** has filled an emergency clean-up bucket for presbytery's Disaster Committee and is studying "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers" in adult church school class.
- **First, Jonesboro** will participate in National Night Out for neighborhood fun and fellowship October 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **First, Springdale** and **Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana's** pastors and members went on summer mission trips together to Joplin, Missouri and Birmingham, Alabama.
- **First, Conway** displayed a green tree full of apples marked with school supplies needed by high school students in August.
- **Wynne Presbyterian's** congregation met on August 7 to change their bylaws to reflect the language of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order.
- **First, Yellville** hosted the third annual Charity Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction with gospel music on August 5.
- **First, Rogers** will prepare a time capsule on September 18, including a photograph of all present on Rally Day, as part of their centennial celebrations on October 30.
- **Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** formed a greeting team of eight to ten people and offers classes in "Cooking for One."
- **Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood** explains their red doors as a Scottish tradition, which is easily identifiable and reminiscent of the color of Christ's Passion.
- **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** offered acolyte training for rising second through sixth graders as school began.
- **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** collected school supplies for their Partner in Education, Park Hill Elementary School in August.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** hosted another successful year of Camp-In-A-Van with 26 happy and active children. The week closed with an Ice Cream Social and a program put on by the children which included a Puppet Show.



Joyce Hamilton-Whitson

News of Our Clusters

- **Cluster IX** (Pulaski County and environs) has elected Ruling Elder Russ Mathis of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock as their representative to Committee on Clusters and Rev. Steve

Hancock, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock as their representative to General Council, both for the 2012-2014 term.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2011 can be found [here](#).

Unified Mission Emphasis

by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

At the October, 2010 meeting of Presbytery at First, Springdale the Presbytery voted on hunger as the Unified Mission Emphasis, a three-year commitment.

This month we again ask each congregation to have the most appropriate person complete and return a [survey](#) about your church's current hunger-related ministries, and your ideas about how best our Presbytery might combat hunger.

Information about where to send the completed survey is included. If you have further questions or suggestions, you are encouraged to call or email the chairperson of the Unified Mission Emphasis task force, Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers, at 501-412-8497 or presbypastor@sbcglobal.net.



United Campus Ministry Outreach



Wouldn't it be a great if about 1,300 incoming students at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) were introduced to our campus ministry! That is just what happened in August at United Campus Ministry. Susan Rose, chaplain at UCM, took on the major project of hosting the girls going through sorority recruitment at UCM during their wait time between recruitment parties. She volunteered UCM as a "Wait Station" as a leap of faith that somehow she could get enough snacks and beverages to supply the 1,300 girls waiting there. Knowing the generosity of First United, Fayetteville, she contacted the church to solicit help in providing snacks for the girls during the seven days of recruitment.

On Monday and Tuesday the girls visited all eight of the sororities and were assigned to a wait station near the sorority they were visiting; so, every girl going through recruitment came to UCM at some time on those two days. After that, the girls could choose which "Wait Station" to go to between parties; and UCM was the overwhelming choice. That is largely due to the wonderful snacks that the people from FUPC donated for this ministry.

UCM will soon be starting its student ministry of Monday lunch with fellowship and planning and Thursday dinner with bible study. Occasionally, FUPC supports this ministry with a home-cooked meal for these gatherings. UCM will also host a joint Thanksgiving dinner on the evening of November 6th to connect northwest Arkansas high school youth groups with college students who frequent UCM. FUPC provides the side dishes, and Susan provides the turkey for this Thanksgiving meal. For finals the students can find a quiet place to study and enjoy snacks at UCM.

(United Campus Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Save the Date

Junior High YouthQuake
September 30- October 2, 2011
Registration Deadline September 16
Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

(YouthQuake is funded by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Presbytery Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama
(Site has changed from Nashville, Tennessee) October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Tuscaloosa.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Gutensohn Spiritual Enrichment Series

October 16-17

First, Fort Smith

Rev. Dr. Charles Denison, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian, Stuart, Florida and author of [The Mainline Manifesto: The Inevitable New Church](#) and [The Artist's Way of Preaching](#)

For more information call 479.783.8919 or email linda@1pres.org

Emotional Intelligence & Human Relations Workshop

Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas

October 17-21, 2011

Information is available [here](#).

Rev. Rebecca Spooner says "Last January, I attended this workshop and found it helpful in uncovering unhealthy leadership patterns. It also gave me a better awareness of myself and how I interact with others and/or are perceived by them."

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo

October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. Applications are available [here](#), by calling 870.688.9189, or by e-mail request arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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

A Safe Place Retreat for Bereaved Parents

November 11-13

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

Rev. Carl McCormack, pastor of First, Malvern will be on staff.

More information [here](#).

Opportunities

VERA LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN HOME & FAMILY SERVICES, INC. SEEKS A DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services is seeking an experienced development officer to direct and coordinate fundraising efforts for the agency. This full-time position is based in the Little Rock office. The successful candidate will have proven experience in all aspects of fundraising.

To apply, email cover letter with resume, salary requirements and references to lynwhaley@veralloyd.org. EEO.

AVAILABLE FREE FOR PICK UP

35 blue hardback pew NRSV Bibles with the Presbyterian seal on the cover. Contact Rev. Jeff Cranton, Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs at 501.525.1367 or email jeffcranton@sbcglobal.net

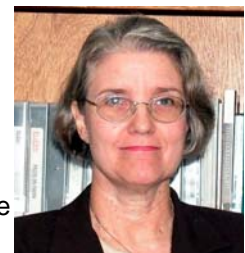
2 Braille Presbyterian Hymnals (the 1990 blue cover version). Contact Rev. Kenny Shaw, First, McGehee at 870.222.3599 or email kenny.shaw2@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) and **Photos of the Retreat** 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, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

--As Presbyterian Women begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study "Confessing the Beatitudes" YOUR Resource Center has the following recommended resources available for the Bible Study leader in your circle or group:

"Confessing the Beatitudes" audio edition with introduction and prayers read aloud by the author Margaret Aymer and lessons and the Accra (pronounced a-craw') Confession read aloud by Leah Bradley

"Confessing the Beatitudes" Companion DVD by Margaret Aymer

Large print version and Spanish language version of "Confessing the Beatitudes" are available.

The author has a monthly blog about the study and will check weekly for your comments and thoughts; link to the blog at www.pcusa.org/horizons

Other books recommended under "additional notes on resources" on page 134 of the study and in the Resource Center available for loan are:

"Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World," Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, editors

"The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide" and **"Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading,"** both by Warren Carter

"Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts" by K. C. Hanson and

Douglass E. Oakman

Horizons Magazine offers additional Bible study resources in these issues: Lesson 1, July/August; Lessons 2 and 3, Sept/Oct.; Lessons 4 and 5, Nov./Dec.; Lessons 6 and 7, Jan./Feb., 2012; Lessons 8 and 9, March/April, 2012.

Even more books on the Beatitudes include:

"The Beatitudes for Today" (Acc. #BK8760) by James C. Howell. Kerygma's **"Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life"** (Acc. #BK6410)

READING GROUP ALERT

With the August release of the movie "The Help," based on the best-selling book, church reading groups might be interested in the following:

"Good News from North Haven" (Acc. #BK8146) by Michael Lindvall, enjoyed by several adult Sunday School classes and VBS groups this summer for its funny, touching look at life in a small town Presbyterian church. Discussion questions now available.

Or **"The Christian Atheist"** by Craig Groeschel, believing in God but living otherwise; **"A Prayer for Owen Meany"** by John Irving, two friends, one believes himself to be God's instrument; **"My Brother Charlie"** by Holly Robinson Peete, twins are alike but Charlie is autistic.

ADVENT ALERT

--Watch for the Advent packets for each congregation at the October 14-15 Presbytery meeting at First, Conway. Christmas is on a Sunday this year so why not let YOUR Resource Center provide ideas and items to educate attendees that unusual, blessed Sunday.

(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 [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth Council [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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>

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by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

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Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) and **Photos of the Retreat** 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, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

--As Presbyterian Women begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study "Confessing the Beatitudes" YOUR Resource Center has the following recommended resources available for the Bible Study leader in your circle or group:

"Confessing the Beatitudes" audio edition with introduction and prayers read aloud by the author Margaret Aymer and lessons and the Accra (pronounced a-craw') Confession read aloud by Leah Bradley

"Confessing the Beatitudes" Companion DVD by Margaret Aymer

Large print version and Spanish language version of "Confessing the Beatitudes" are available.

The author has a monthly blog about the study and will check weekly for your comments and thoughts; link to the blog at www.pcusa.org/horizons

Other books recommended under "additional notes on resources" on page 134 of the study and in the Resource Center available for loan are:

"Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World," Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, editors

"The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide" and **"Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading,"** both by Warren Carter

"Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts" by K. C. Hanson and

Douglass E. Oakman

Horizons Magazine offers additional Bible study resources in these issues: Lesson 1, July/August; Lessons 2 and 3, Sept/Oct.; Lessons 4 and 5, Nov./Dec.; Lessons 6 and 7, Jan./Feb., 2012; Lessons 8 and 9, March/April, 2012.

Even more books on the Beatitudes include:

"The Beatitudes for Today" (Acc. #BK8760) by James C. Howell. Kerygma's **"Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life"** (Acc. #BK6410)

READING GROUP ALERT

With the August release of the movie "The Help," based on the best-selling book, church reading groups might be interested in the following:

"Good News from North Haven" (Acc. #BK8146) by Michael Lindvall, enjoyed by several adult Sunday School classes and VBS groups this summer for its funny, touching look at life in a small town Presbyterian church. Discussion questions now available.

Or **"The Christian Atheist"** by Craig Groeschel, believing in God but living otherwise; **"A Prayer for Owen Meany"** by John Irving, two friends, one believes himself to be God's instrument; **"My Brother Charlie"** by Holly Robinson Peete, twins are alike but Charlie is autistic.

ADVENT ALERT

--Watch for the Advent packets for each congregation at the October 14-15 Presbytery meeting at First, Conway. Christmas is on a Sunday this year so why not let YOUR Resource Center provide ideas and items to educate attendees that unusual, blessed Sunday.

(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 [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth Council [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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>

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September 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"God's Already Seen It"

On Labor Day weekend we worshipped with the Baptists in San Antonio. We had gone to help my in-laws, Bob and Blu, get to know their newest great-granddaughter and stayed over Sunday for worship at their church just down the hill from Trinity University.



Walking into Trinity Baptist, the first thing a visitor experiences is a warm welcome, a genuine "Glad you're here." hello. Front door greeters bid a good morning. Greeters by the sanctuary doors extend a hand and another spoken welcome as they distribute bulletins. But some of the friendliest welcomers are the "special friends" of Trinity, a group of mentally challenged adults whose delight at offering hospitality radiates contagiously among those gathering to praise God. One, Pat, came back two pews to give a special greeting to my wife, Sibyl. He called her by name. How he knew that we still don't know, but believe he paid careful attention to the conversations he could hear two rows down. Oh, and there was another greeter in the sanctuary. Pastor Les walked among the pews as the congregation assembled speaking a personal welcome to all he could reach. He does this every Sunday. A bio says that Les has had a history of leading churches toward new life and growth.

Trinity is a large church by Presbyterian standards. Years ago, it was much larger. After a long-time pastor had difficulty moving on effectively, the church split leaving a remnant to rebuild with God's help. To a first-time visitor, it seems they are well on their way. Here is a large congregation that emphasizes the personal touch. At the conclusion of the service the congregation held hands, reached across the aisles and sang the Lord's Prayer. The hymns change; taking each other by the hand doesn't.

After worship, we made our way to the children's ministry area, a focal point of church life. Entering the area one is transported into the menagerie of Noah's ark. The creative spirit behind this area is Bob and Blu's daughter, Shawn Bridges. Off the central two-story atrium rotunda are classrooms. In one direction Old Testament characters populate the walls. The other wing features New Testament themes. A spiral staircase lifts visitors from depictions of some of the larger land creatures, lions and tigers and elephants to the more ethereal birds of the air. There's even an aardvark munching on ants scurrying along a baseboard. The creation of the murals and other wildlife scenes has been a multi-year labor of love for God. When a visiting nun asked Shawn how she would feel if the building burned and all the art was lost, Shawn responded, "That would be alright. I did this for God and God has already seen it."

One has the feeling that at Trinity Baptist the culture of "giving it all away" has taken root. Giving away welcome, giving away encouragement, giving away opportunities to serve, giving one's best for God. When it's done so cheerfully one can't help but notice and want to go back.

Grace always,
[Bill](#)

(For a view of the artwork at Trinity Baptist, Google Shawn Kingston Bridges and see Gallery One.)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule

September

14 Solar Under the Sun - Development Meeting, Ferncliff
 15-16 Solar School, Ferncliff
 17 General Council, Conway
 18 Congregational Meeting, First Presbyterian, Benton
 27-28 Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home Board - Monticello

October

1 Tri-Church Retreat, Yellville, Mountain Home, Bull Shoals
 2 Preach and Lead Worship, Bull Shoals
 3-8 Mennonite Peace Center, Conflict Resolution Training, Dallas
 14 Orientation for New Pastors and Leaders, Conway
 14 Committee on Ministry, First, Conway
 14-15 Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian, Conway
 17-19 Fall Polity Conference, Pittsburgh
 19-20 Association of Executive Presbyters, Pittsburgh
 21 Lyon College Board, Batesville
 23-29 Post D.Min. Group Continuing Education - Mo-Ranch
 30 100th Anniversary, First Presbyterian, Rogers
 30 Installation of Chris Jones, First Presbyterian, Jonesboro

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Elders Rule . . . When They Serve

This catchy phrase was on the event t-shirt for the second Elder Conference sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly. It builds upon the historic reference of elders as "Ruling Elders".

The Book of Order, as of last summer, has now restored this definition. Our Form of Government now names two types of elders: "Teaching Elders" (Ministers of Word and Sacrament), and "Ruling Elders," so named not because they are to "lord it over" the congregation, or to "rule with an iron fist" or any other cliché. This is used in the sense of a measuring tool, a plumb line, by which the people of God may discern how they "measure up" to the Word of God, how straight they are on the journey of faith. These elders are the "rule" by which the congregation measures its faith and discipleship.

We have all been strengthened in our faith through some of these saints of the church. We know that their service has been most effective when we have seen their servant leadership, attending to the more difficult tasks of the church, loving, forgiving. It is their parity in ministry, along with Teaching Elders, that makes the Presbyterian Church different from all other denominations.

Ruling Elders: The ministry of Discernment and Governance, G-2.03

Blessings & peace
[Cathy](#)



118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, October 14-15, 2011 - First Presbyterian, Conway

Friday

1:30-6:10 p.m. Orientation of new church professionals

2:30 p.m. Registration opens

3:00-5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops (choose one)

a. Hunger Emphasis (three speakers: demographics of Arkansas hunger, starting a food pantry and beginning a community garden)

b. Feasting on the Word Curriculum (Linda LeBron)

c. Planning and Leading a Service of Healing and Wholeness (Rev. Tom Ulrich)

d. Caring for Family & Parishioners When Cognition and Health are Compromised
(Dr. Karen Young-Vinson)

Dinner on your own

6:30 p.m. Gavel, business, followed by Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and reception

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. Healing and Wholeness Service

8:50 a.m. Business continues

11:30 a.m. Order of the Day to recognize graduates of the lay academy

Lunch served by host church after which business may continue

Highlights: Welcome of new ministers, workshop within meeting on decisions by congregations to be made in light of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order, annual reports of Committee on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response (bring those flood buckets please!), Presbyterian Women. Worship offering recipient is Cents-ability. Ingathering recipient is Bethlehem House in Conway, a community homeless shelter, and particular needed items are non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies.

The meeting packet will be posted on the Presbytery website by Sept. 26.

Committee on Mission Invites You to a Pre-Presbytery Workshop

by [Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington](#), Moderator

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, at First, Conway, the Committee on Mission will host a workshop to offer information, encouragement, and networking opportunities for those wanting to do more to meet the challenge of hunger in their communities.

State Representative Kathy Webb will present a picture of hunger in Arkansas. Vicki Gill, a founder of Partners for Progress of Perry County, a food pantry in operation for over two decades, will speak about beginning and maintaining a food pantry in your church or community. Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, associate pastor at First United Methodist, Conway, will share the story of her work with a "community garden," a project that has not only provided food for people in need, but also an opportunity to bring together neighbors whose paths may never have crossed.

Whether you are a long-time worker in the campaign against hunger, or feel led to help begin a project in your church or community, we hope you will join us. Sharing our experiences is one of the ways in which God can equip us for this ministry!

People and Church News

News of Our People

- **Sarah Akin** of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock has been commissioned as a Young Adult Volunteer by PC(USA) and is being deployed to Nashville to assist with disaster recovery. Sarah is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Karen and Doug Akin. Karen is associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.
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Resource Center News

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104
Tuesday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

--As Presbyterian Women begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study "Confessing the Beatitudes" YOUR Resource Center has the following recommended resources available for the Bible Study leader in your circle or group:

"Confessing the Beatitudes" audio edition with introduction and prayers read aloud by the author Margaret Aymer and lessons and the Accra (pronounced a-craw') Confession read aloud by Leah Bradley

"Confessing the Beatitudes" Companion DVD by Margaret Aymer

Large print version and Spanish language version of "Confessing the Beatitudes" are available.

The author has a monthly blog about the study and will check weekly for your comments and thoughts; link to the blog at www.pcusa.org/horizons

Other books recommended under "additional notes on resources" on page 134 of the study and in the Resource Center available for loan are:

"Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World," Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, editors

"The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide" and **"Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading,"** both by Warren Carter

"Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts" by K. C. Hanson and

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"The Beatitudes for Today" (Acc. #BK8760) by James C. Howell. Kerygma's **"Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life"** (Acc. #BK6410)

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ADVENT ALERT

--Watch for the Advent packets for each congregation at the October 14-15 Presbytery meeting at First, Conway. Christmas is on a Sunday this year so why not let YOUR Resource Center provide ideas and items to educate attendees that unusual, blessed Sunday.

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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

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September 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"God's Already Seen It"

On Labor Day weekend we worshipped with the Baptists in San Antonio. We had gone to help my in-laws, Bob and Blu, get to know their newest great-granddaughter and stayed over Sunday for worship at their church just down the hill from Trinity University.



Walking into Trinity Baptist, the first thing a visitor experiences is a warm welcome, a genuine "Glad you're here." hello. Front door greeters bid a good morning. Greeters by the sanctuary doors extend a hand and another spoken welcome as they distribute bulletins. But some of the friendliest welcomers are the "special friends" of Trinity, a group of mentally challenged adults whose delight at offering hospitality radiates contagiously among those gathering to praise God. One, Pat, came back two pews to give a special greeting to my wife, Sibyl. He called her by name. How he knew that we still don't know, but believe he paid careful attention to the conversations he could hear two rows down. Oh, and there was another greeter in the sanctuary. Pastor Les walked among the pews as the congregation assembled speaking a personal welcome to all he could reach. He does this every Sunday. A bio says that Les has had a history of leading churches toward new life and growth.

Trinity is a large church by Presbyterian standards. Years ago, it was much larger. After a long-time pastor had difficulty moving on effectively, the church split leaving a remnant to rebuild with God's help. To a first-time visitor, it seems they are well on their way. Here is a large congregation that emphasizes the personal touch. At the conclusion of the service the congregation held hands, reached across the aisles and sang the Lord's Prayer. The hymns change; taking each other by the hand doesn't.

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One has the feeling that at Trinity Baptist the culture of "giving it all away" has taken root. Giving away welcome, giving away encouragement, giving away opportunities to serve, giving one's best for God. When it's done so cheerfully one can't help but notice and want to go back.

Grace always,
[Bill](#)

(For a view of the artwork at Trinity Baptist, Google Shawn Kingston Bridges and see Gallery One.)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule

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 30 Installation of Chris Jones, First Presbyterian, Jonesboro

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

Elders Rule . . . When They Serve

This catchy phrase was on the event t-shirt for the second Elder Conference sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly. It builds upon the historic reference of elders as "Ruling Elders".

The Book of Order, as of last summer, has now restored this definition. Our Form of Government now names two types of elders: "Teaching Elders" (Ministers of Word and Sacrament), and "Ruling Elders," so named not because they are to "lord it over" the congregation, or to "rule with an iron fist" or any other cliché. This is used in the sense of a measuring tool, a plumb line, by which the people of God may discern how they "measure up" to the Word of God, how straight they are on the journey of faith. These elders are the "rule" by which the congregation measures its faith and discipleship.

We have all been strengthened in our faith through some of these saints of the church. We know that their service has been most effective when we have seen their servant leadership, attending to the more difficult tasks of the church, loving, forgiving. It is their parity in ministry, along with Teaching Elders, that makes the Presbyterian Church different from all other denominations.

Ruling Elders: The ministry of Discernment and Governance, G-2.03

Blessings & peace
[Cathy](#)



118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, October 14-15, 2011 - First Presbyterian, Conway

Friday

1:30-6:10 p.m. Orientation of new church professionals

2:30 p.m. Registration opens

3:00-5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops (choose one)

a. Hunger Emphasis (three speakers: demographics of Arkansas hunger, starting a food pantry and beginning a community garden)

b. Feasting on the Word Curriculum (Linda LeBron)

c. Planning and Leading a Service of Healing and Wholeness (Rev. Tom Ulrich)

d. Caring for Family & Parishioners When Cognition and Health are Compromised
(Dr. Karen Young-Vinson)

Dinner on your own

6:30 p.m. Gavel, business, followed by Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and reception

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. Healing and Wholeness Service

8:50 a.m. Business continues

11:30 a.m. Order of the Day to recognize graduates of the lay academy

Lunch served by host church after which business may continue

Highlights: Welcome of new ministers, workshop within meeting on decisions by congregations to be made in light of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order, annual reports of Committee on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response (bring those flood buckets please!), Presbyterian Women. Worship offering recipient is Cents-ability. Ingathering recipient is Bethlehem House in Conway, a community homeless shelter, and particular needed items are non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies.

The meeting packet will be posted on the Presbytery website by Sept. 26.

Committee on Mission Invites You to a Pre-Presbytery Workshop

by [Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington](#), Moderator

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, at First, Conway, the Committee on Mission will host a workshop to offer information, encouragement, and networking opportunities for those wanting to do more to meet the challenge of hunger in their communities.

State Representative Kathy Webb will present a picture of hunger in Arkansas. Vicki Gill, a founder of Partners for Progress of Perry County, a food pantry in operation for over two decades, will speak about beginning and maintaining a food pantry in your church or community. Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, associate pastor at First United Methodist, Conway, will share the story of her work with a "community garden," a project that has not only provided food for people in need, but also an opportunity to bring together neighbors whose paths may never have crossed.

Whether you are a long-time worker in the campaign against hunger, or feel led to help begin a project in your church or community, we hope you will join us. Sharing our experiences is one of the ways in which God can equip us for this ministry!

People and Church News

News of Our People

- **Sarah Akin** of Second Presbyterian, Little Rock has been commissioned as a Young Adult Volunteer by PC(USA) and is being deployed to Nashville to assist with disaster recovery. Sarah is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Karen and Doug Akin. Karen is associate pastor at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- **Rev. Bill Christman**, honorably retired interim pastor at First, Mena, continues recuperating in Denver from a fall and injuries.
- **Rev. Richard Miller** of Paron, honorably retired, is at home, recuperating from recent surgery.
- Prayers continue for Educator **Lynn Condra** and **Rev. Shauna Silmon** as they care for Lynn's daughter/ granddaughters, Shauna's sister/nieces after an auto accident. Maddison Rodery is at home in Claremore, Oklahoma and MaKenna is hospitalized in St. Louis, attended by her mother Marcia. Lynn is Director of Christian Education at Central Presbyterian, Fort Smith and Shauna is pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Little Rock.
- **Marc van Bulck** is the new Youth Director at First, Bentonville.
- Christian sympathy is extended to **Rev. David and Letha Laverty**, honorably retired, of Jonesboro in the death of their son Michael on July 4.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Drew and Rhonda Travis** on the birth of a grandson, Hayden Emmanuel Avila, on August 30. Mother and father are Jesse and Esteban Avila. Drew is pastor of First, Conway.

News of Our Congregations & Ministries

- **First, Ozark** recently had a music and word worship service conducted by Joyce Hamilton-Whitson, who was assisted by her husband, Chuck Whitson.
- **First, McGehee** will celebrate their centennial September 30-October 2. For more information call 870.222.3599 or email fpcmcg@sbcglobal.net.
- The congregation of **West Fork Presbyterian** enjoys a fellowship dinner the first Sunday of every month. "Money jars" are placed on the tables to collect money for the Centsability hunger program. (*Presbytery's Committee on Mission distributes the proceeds of the Centsability program.*)
- **Woodlands Presbyterian, Hot Springs Village** plans a mission trip to Louisiana's Project Homecoming October 23-29.
- **First, Brinkley** has filled an emergency clean-up bucket for presbytery's Disaster Committee and is studying "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers" in adult church school class.
- **First, Jonesboro** will participate in National Night Out for neighborhood fun and fellowship October 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **First, Springdale** and **Comunidad Presbiteriana Hispana's** pastors and members went on summer mission trips together to Joplin, Missouri and Birmingham, Alabama.
- **First, Conway** displayed a green tree full of apples marked with school supplies needed by high school students in August.
- **Wynne Presbyterian's** congregation met on August 7 to change their bylaws to reflect the language of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order.
- **First, Yellville** hosted the third annual Charity Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction with gospel music on August 5.
- **First, Rogers** will prepare a time capsule on September 18, including a photograph of all present on Rally Day, as part of their centennial celebrations on October 30.
- **Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village** formed a greeting team of eight to ten people and offers classes in "Cooking for One."
- **Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Greenwood** explains their red doors as a Scottish tradition, which is easily identifiable and reminiscent of the color of Christ's Passion.
- **Central Presbyterian, Russellville** offered acolyte training for rising second through sixth graders as school began.
- **Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock** collected school supplies for their Partner in Education, Park Hill Elementary School in August.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** hosted another successful year of Camp-In-A-Van with 26 happy and active children. The week closed with an Ice Cream Social and a program put on by the children which included a Puppet Show.



Joyce Hamilton-Whitson

News of Our Clusters

- **Cluster IX** (Pulaski County and environs) has elected Ruling Elder Russ Mathis of Park Hill Presbyterian, North Little Rock as their representative to Committee on Clusters and Rev. Steve

Hancock, Second Presbyterian, Little Rock as their representative to General Council, both for the 2012-2014 term.

Prayer List for Congregations - 2011 can be found [here](#).

Unified Mission Emphasis

by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

At the October, 2010 meeting of Presbytery at First, Springdale the Presbytery voted on hunger as the Unified Mission Emphasis, a three-year commitment.

This month we again ask each congregation to have the most appropriate person complete and return a [survey](#) about your church's current hunger-related ministries, and your ideas about how best our Presbytery might combat hunger.

Information about where to send the completed survey is included. If you have further questions or suggestions, you are encouraged to call or email the chairperson of the Unified Mission Emphasis task force, Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers, at 501-412-8497 or presbypastor@sbcglobal.net.



United Campus Ministry Outreach



Wouldn't it be a great if about 1,300 incoming students at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) were introduced to our campus ministry! That is just what happened in August at United Campus Ministry. Susan Rose, chaplain at UCM, took on the major project of hosting the girls going through sorority recruitment at UCM during their wait time between recruitment parties. She volunteered UCM as a "Wait Station" as a leap of faith that somehow she could get enough snacks and beverages to supply the 1,300 girls waiting there. Knowing the generosity of First United, Fayetteville, she contacted the church to solicit help in providing snacks for the girls during the seven days of recruitment.

On Monday and Tuesday the girls visited all eight of the sororities and were assigned to a wait station near the sorority they were visiting; so, every girl going through recruitment came to UCM at some time on those two days. After that, the girls could choose which "Wait Station" to go to between parties; and UCM was the overwhelming choice. That is largely due to the wonderful snacks that the people from FUPC donated for this ministry.

UCM will soon be starting its student ministry of Monday lunch with fellowship and planning and Thursday dinner with bible study. Occasionally, FUPC supports this ministry with a home-cooked meal for these gatherings. UCM will also host a joint Thanksgiving dinner on the evening of November 6th to connect northwest Arkansas high school youth groups with college students who frequent UCM. FUPC provides the side dishes, and Susan provides the turkey for this Thanksgiving meal. For finals the students can find a quiet place to study and enjoy snacks at UCM.

(United Campus Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Save the Date

Junior High YouthQuake
September 30- October 2, 2011
Registration Deadline September 16
Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

(YouthQuake is funded by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Presbytery Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama
(Site has changed from Nashville, Tennessee) October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Tuscaloosa.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Gutensohn Spiritual Enrichment Series
October 16-17

First, Fort Smith

Rev. Dr. Charles Denison, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian, Stuart, Florida and author of [The Mainline Manifesto: The Inevitable New Church](#) and [The Artist's Way of Preaching](#)

For more information call 479.783.8919 or email linda@1pres.org

Emotional Intelligence & Human Relations Workshop
Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas
October 17-21, 2011

Information is available [here](#).

Rev. Rebecca Spooner says "Last January, I attended this workshop and found it helpful in uncovering unhealthy leadership patterns. It also gave me a better awareness of myself and how I interact with others and/or are perceived by them."

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo
October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. Applications are available [here](#), by calling 870.688.9189, or by e-mail request arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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

A Safe Place Retreat for Bereaved Parents
November 11-13

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

Rev. Carl McCormack, pastor of First, Malvern will be on staff.

More information [here](#).

Opportunities

VERA LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN HOME & FAMILY SERVICES, INC. SEEKS A DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services is seeking an experienced development officer to direct and coordinate fundraising efforts for the agency. This full-time position is based in the Little Rock office. The successful candidate will have proven experience in all aspects of fundraising.

To apply, email cover letter with resume, salary requirements and references to lynwhaley@veralloyd.org. EEO.

AVAILABLE FREE FOR PICK UP

35 blue hardback pew NRSV Bibles with the Presbyterian seal on the cover. Contact Rev. Jeff Cranton, Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs at 501.525.1367 or email jeffcranton@sbcglobal.net

2 Braille Presbyterian Hymnals (the 1990 blue cover version). Contact Rev. Kenny Shaw, First, McGehee at 870.222.3599 or email kenny.shaw2@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) and **Photos of the Retreat** can be found [here](#).
(The PW Coordinating Team receives funding in the Presbytery budget.)

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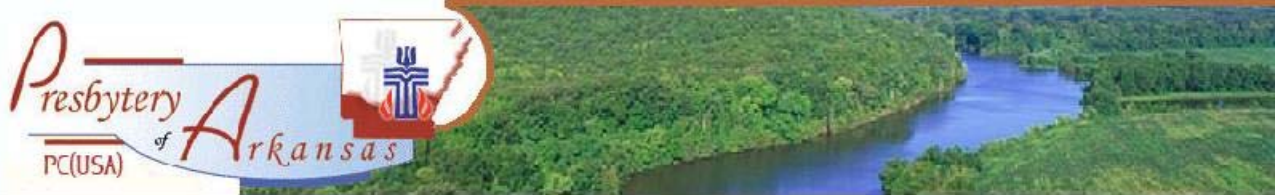
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The Book of Order, as of last summer, has now restored this definition. Our Form of Government now names two types of elders: "Teaching Elders" (Ministers of Word and Sacrament), and "Ruling Elders," so named not because they are to "lord it over" the congregation, or to "rule with an iron fist" or any other cliché. This is used in the sense of a measuring tool, a plumb line, by which the people of God may discern how they "measure up" to the Word of God, how straight they are on the journey of faith. These elders are the "rule" by which the congregation measures its faith and discipleship.

We have all been strengthened in our faith through some of these saints of the church. We know that their service has been most effective when we have seen their servant leadership, attending to the more difficult tasks of the church, loving, forgiving. It is their parity in ministry, along with Teaching Elders, that makes the Presbyterian Church different from all other denominations.

Ruling Elders: The ministry of Discernment and Governance, G-2.03

Blessings & peace
[Cathy](#)



118th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas Friday-Saturday, October 14-15, 2011 - First Presbyterian, Conway

Friday

1:30-6:10 p.m. Orientation of new church professionals

2:30 p.m. Registration opens

3:00-5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Workshops (choose one)

a. Hunger Emphasis (three speakers: demographics of Arkansas hunger, starting a food pantry and beginning a community garden)

b. Feasting on the Word Curriculum (Linda LeBron)

c. Planning and Leading a Service of Healing and Wholeness (Rev. Tom Ulrich)

d. Caring for Family & Parishioners When Cognition and Health are Compromised
(Dr. Karen Young-Vinson)

Dinner on your own

6:30 p.m. Gavel, business, followed by Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and reception

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7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

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11:30 a.m. Order of the Day to recognize graduates of the lay academy

Lunch served by host church after which business may continue

Highlights: Welcome of new ministers, workshop within meeting on decisions by congregations to be made in light of the new Form of Government section of the Book of Order, annual reports of Committee on Nominations, Christian Education and Nurture, Disaster Preparedness and Response (bring those flood buckets please!), Presbyterian Women. Worship offering recipient is Cents-ability. Ingathering recipient is Bethlehem House in Conway, a community homeless shelter, and particular needed items are non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies.

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by [Rev. Dr. Gordon Garlington](#), Moderator

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Whether you are a long-time worker in the campaign against hunger, or feel led to help begin a project in your church or community, we hope you will join us. Sharing our experiences is one of the ways in which God can equip us for this ministry!

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by [Brian Perry](#), Director of Mission Support

At the October, 2010 meeting of Presbytery at First, Springdale the Presbytery voted on hunger as the Unified Mission Emphasis, a three-year commitment.

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Information about where to send the completed survey is included. If you have further questions or suggestions, you are encouraged to call or email the chairperson of the Unified Mission Emphasis task force, Rev. Dr. Emmett Powers, at 501-412-8497 or presbypastor@sbcglobal.net.



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On Monday and Tuesday the girls visited all eight of the sororities and were assigned to a wait station near the sorority they were visiting; so, every girl going through recruitment came to UCM at some time on those two days. After that, the girls could choose which "Wait Station" to go to between parties; and UCM was the overwhelming choice. That is largely due to the wonderful snacks that the people from FUPC donated for this ministry.

UCM will soon be starting its student ministry of Monday lunch with fellowship and planning and Thursday dinner with bible study. Occasionally, FUPC supports this ministry with a home-cooked meal for these gatherings. UCM will also host a joint Thanksgiving dinner on the evening of November 6th to connect northwest Arkansas high school youth groups with college students who frequent UCM. FUPC provides the side dishes, and Susan provides the turkey for this Thanksgiving meal. For finals the students can find a quiet place to study and enjoy snacks at UCM.

(United Campus Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Save the Date

Junior High YouthQuake
September 30- October 2, 2011
Registration Deadline September 16
Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

(YouthQuake is funded by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Presbytery Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama
(Site has changed from Nashville, Tennessee) October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Tuscaloosa.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Gutensohn Spiritual Enrichment Series

October 16-17

First, Fort Smith

Rev. Dr. Charles Denison, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian, Stuart, Florida and author of [The Mainline Manifesto: The Inevitable New Church](#) and [The Artist's Way of Preaching](#)

For more information call 479.783.8919 or email linda@1pres.org

Emotional Intelligence & Human Relations Workshop

Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas

October 17-21, 2011

Information is available [here](#).

Rev. Rebecca Spooner says "Last January, I attended this workshop and found it helpful in uncovering unhealthy leadership patterns. It also gave me a better awareness of myself and how I interact with others and/or are perceived by them."

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo

October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. Applications are available [here](#), by calling 870.688.9189, or by e-mail request arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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

A Safe Place Retreat for Bereaved Parents

November 11-13

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

Rev. Carl McCormack, pastor of First, Malvern will be on staff.

More information [here](#).

Opportunities

VERA LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN HOME & FAMILY SERVICES, INC. SEEKS A DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services is seeking an experienced development officer to direct and coordinate fundraising efforts for the agency. This full-time position is based in the Little Rock office. The successful candidate will have proven experience in all aspects of fundraising.

To apply, email cover letter with resume, salary requirements and references to lynwhaley@veralloyd.org. EEO.

AVAILABLE FREE FOR PICK UP

35 blue hardback pew NRSV Bibles with the Presbyterian seal on the cover. Contact Rev. Jeff Cranton, Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs at 501.525.1367 or email jeffcranton@sbcglobal.net

2 Braille Presbyterian Hymnals (the 1990 blue cover version). Contact Rev. Kenny Shaw, First, McGehee at 870.222.3599 or email kenny.shaw2@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) and **Photos of the Retreat** 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, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

--As Presbyterian Women begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study "Confessing the Beatitudes" YOUR Resource Center has the following recommended resources available for the Bible Study leader in your circle or group:

"Confessing the Beatitudes" audio edition with introduction and prayers read aloud by the author Margaret Aymer and lessons and the Accra (pronounced a-craw') Confession read aloud by Leah Bradley

"Confessing the Beatitudes" Companion DVD by Margaret Aymer

Large print version and Spanish language version of "Confessing the Beatitudes" are available.

The author has a monthly blog about the study and will check weekly for your comments and thoughts; link to the blog at www.pcusa.org/horizons

Other books recommended under "additional notes on resources" on page 134 of the study and in the Resource Center available for loan are:

"Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World," Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, editors

"The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide" and **"Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading,"** both by Warren Carter

"Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts" by K. C. Hanson and

Douglass E. Oakman

Horizons Magazine offers additional Bible study resources in these issues: Lesson 1, July/August; Lessons 2 and 3, Sept/Oct.; Lessons 4 and 5, Nov./Dec.; Lessons 6 and 7, Jan./Feb., 2012; Lessons 8 and 9, March/April, 2012.

Even more books on the Beatitudes include:

"The Beatitudes for Today" (Acc. #BK8760) by James C. Howell. Kerygma's **"Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life"** (Acc. #BK6410)

READING GROUP ALERT

With the August release of the movie "The Help," based on the best-selling book, church reading groups might be interested in the following:

"Good News from North Haven" (Acc. #BK8146) by Michael Lindvall, enjoyed by several adult Sunday School classes and VBS groups this summer for its funny, touching look at life in a small town Presbyterian church. Discussion questions now available.

Or **"The Christian Atheist"** by Craig Groeschel, believing in God but living otherwise; **"A Prayer for Owen Meany"** by John Irving, two friends, one believes himself to be God's instrument; **"My Brother Charlie"** by Holly Robinson Peete, twins are alike but Charlie is autistic.

ADVENT ALERT

--Watch for the Advent packets for each congregation at the October 14-15 Presbytery meeting at First, Conway. Christmas is on a Sunday this year so why not let YOUR Resource Center provide ideas and items to educate attendees that unusual, blessed Sunday.

(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 [BRIAN PERRY](#)

Presbytery Evangelist [JESSE GONZALEZ](#)

Staff Resource for Youth Council [WHITNEY BORDELON](#)

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

Treasurer [BILLY STONE](#)

Moderator of Presbytery [SAM HIGHSMITH](#)

Vice Moderator of Presbytery [DAVID DYER](#)

Moderator of General Council [DEBRA CARL FREEMAN](#)



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>

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September 2011

The Banner

Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas



In Touch

by General Presbyter Rev. Dr. William F. Galbraith

"God's Already Seen It"

On Labor Day weekend we worshipped with the Baptists in San Antonio. We had gone to help my in-laws, Bob and Blu, get to know their newest great-granddaughter and stayed over Sunday for worship at their church just down the hill from Trinity University.



Walking into Trinity Baptist, the first thing a visitor experiences is a warm welcome, a genuine "Glad you're here." hello. Front door greeters bid a good morning. Greeters by the sanctuary doors extend a hand and another spoken welcome as they distribute bulletins. But some of the friendliest welcomers are the "special friends" of Trinity, a group of mentally challenged adults whose delight at offering hospitality radiates contagiously among those gathering to praise God. One, Pat, came back two pews to give a special greeting to my wife, Sibyl. He called her by name. How he knew that we still don't know, but believe he paid careful attention to the conversations he could hear two rows down. Oh, and there was another greeter in the sanctuary. Pastor Les walked among the pews as the congregation assembled speaking a personal welcome to all he could reach. He does this every Sunday. A bio says that Les has had a history of leading churches toward new life and growth.

Trinity is a large church by Presbyterian standards. Years ago, it was much larger. After a long-time pastor had difficulty moving on effectively, the church split leaving a remnant to rebuild with God's help. To a first-time visitor, it seems they are well on their way. Here is a large congregation that emphasizes the personal touch. At the conclusion of the service the congregation held hands, reached across the aisles and sang the Lord's Prayer. The hymns change; taking each other by the hand doesn't.

After worship, we made our way to the children's ministry area, a focal point of church life. Entering the area one is transported into the menagerie of Noah's ark. The creative spirit behind this area is Bob and Blu's daughter, Shawn Bridges. Off the central two-story atrium rotunda are classrooms. In one direction Old Testament characters populate the walls. The other wing features New Testament themes. A spiral staircase lifts visitors from depictions of some of the larger land creatures, lions and tigers and elephants to the more ethereal birds of the air. There's even an aardvark munching on ants scurrying along a baseboard. The creation of the murals and other wildlife scenes has been a multi-year labor of love for God. When a visiting nun asked Shawn how she would feel if the building burned and all the art was lost, Shawn responded, "That would be alright. I did this for God and God has already seen it."

One has the feeling that at Trinity Baptist the culture of "giving it all away" has taken root. Giving away welcome, giving away encouragement, giving away opportunities to serve, giving one's best for God. When it's done so cheerfully one can't help but notice and want to go back.

Grace always,
[Bill](#)

(For a view of the artwork at Trinity Baptist, Google Shawn Kingston Bridges and see Gallery One.)

General Presbyter's Out of Office Schedule

September

14 Solar Under the Sun - Development Meeting, Ferncliff
 15-16 Solar School, Ferncliff
 17 General Council, Conway
 18 Congregational Meeting, First Presbyterian, Benton
 27-28 Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home Board - Monticello

October

1 Tri-Church Retreat, Yellville, Mountain Home, Bull Shoals
 2 Preach and Lead Worship, Bull Shoals
 3-8 Mennonite Peace Center, Conflict Resolution Training, Dallas
 14 Orientation for New Pastors and Leaders, Conway
 14 Committee on Ministry, First, Conway
 14-15 Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian, Conway
 17-19 Fall Polity Conference, Pittsburgh
 19-20 Association of Executive Presbyters, Pittsburgh
 21 Lyon College Board, Batesville
 23-29 Post D.Min. Group Continuing Education - Mo-Ranch
 30 100th Anniversary, First Presbyterian, Rogers
 30 Installation of Chris Jones, First Presbyterian, Jonesboro

A Polity Point by Rev. Cathy Ulrich, Stated Clerk

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United Campus Ministry Outreach



Wouldn't it be a great if about 1,300 incoming students at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) were introduced to our campus ministry! That is just what happened in August at United Campus Ministry. Susan Rose, chaplain at UCM, took on the major project of hosting the girls going through sorority recruitment at UCM during their wait time between recruitment parties. She volunteered UCM as a "Wait Station" as a leap of faith that somehow she could get enough snacks and beverages to supply the 1,300 girls waiting there. Knowing the generosity of First United, Fayetteville, she contacted the church to solicit help in providing snacks for the girls during the seven days of recruitment.

On Monday and Tuesday the girls visited all eight of the sororities and were assigned to a wait station near the sorority they were visiting; so, every girl going through recruitment came to UCM at some time on those two days. After that, the girls could choose which "Wait Station" to go to between parties; and UCM was the overwhelming choice. That is largely due to the wonderful snacks that the people from FUPC donated for this ministry.

UCM will soon be starting its student ministry of Monday lunch with fellowship and planning and Thursday dinner with bible study. Occasionally, FUPC supports this ministry with a home-cooked meal for these gatherings. UCM will also host a joint Thanksgiving dinner on the evening of November 6th to connect northwest Arkansas high school youth groups with college students who frequent UCM. FUPC provides the side dishes, and Susan provides the turkey for this Thanksgiving meal. For finals the students can find a quiet place to study and enjoy snacks at UCM.

(United Campus Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Save the Date

Junior High YouthQuake
September 30- October 2, 2011
Registration Deadline September 16
Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

(YouthQuake is funded by Presbytery's Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.)

Presbytery Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama
(Site has changed from Nashville, Tennessee) October 16-22, 2011

Anyone age 18 or older is invited to rebuild and restore hope to the people of Tuscaloosa.

Registration Deadline: October 3

More information [here](#) or call Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335)

(This mission trip is partially funded by Presbytery's Committee on Mission.)

Gutensohn Spiritual Enrichment Series
October 16-17

First, Fort Smith

Rev. Dr. Charles Denison, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian, Stuart, Florida and author of [The Mainline Manifesto: The Inevitable New Church](#) and [The Artist's Way of Preaching](#)

For more information call 479.783.8919 or email linda@1pres.org

Emotional Intelligence & Human Relations Workshop
Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas
October 17-21, 2011

Information is available [here](#).

Rev. Rebecca Spooner says "Last January, I attended this workshop and found it helpful in uncovering unhealthy leadership patterns. It also gave me a better awareness of myself and how I interact with others and/or are perceived by them."

Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo
October 19-23, 2011

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Cursillo is a short course in living the Christian faith with the objective to inspire, challenge and equip church members for Christian action. The staff is lay-led and composed of Presbyterian laity and clergy who have previously attended a 3-day weekend. Experience short talks, music, fellowship, small group discussion and great food. Applications are available [here](#), by calling 870.688.9189, or by e-mail request arpc.registrar@gmail.com.

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

A Safe Place Retreat for Bereaved Parents
November 11-13

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

Rev. Carl McCormack, pastor of First, Malvern will be on staff.

More information [here](#).

Opportunities

VERA LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN HOME & FAMILY SERVICES, INC. SEEKS A DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home & Family Services is seeking an experienced development officer to direct and coordinate fundraising efforts for the agency. This full-time position is based in the Little Rock office. The successful candidate will have proven experience in all aspects of fundraising.

To apply, email cover letter with resume, salary requirements and references to lynwhaley@veralloyd.org. EEO.

AVAILABLE FREE FOR PICK UP

35 blue hardback pew NRSV Bibles with the Presbyterian seal on the cover. Contact Rev. Jeff Cranton, Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs at 501.525.1367 or email jeffcranton@sbcglobal.net

2 Braille Presbyterian Hymnals (the 1990 blue cover version). Contact Rev. Kenny Shaw, First, McGehee at 870.222.3599 or email kenny.shaw2@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women News can be found [here](#) and **Photos of the Retreat** 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, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

--As Presbyterian Women begin the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study "Confessing the Beatitudes" YOUR Resource Center has the following recommended resources available for the Bible Study leader in your circle or group:

"Confessing the Beatitudes" audio edition with introduction and prayers read aloud by the author Margaret Aymer and lessons and the Accra (pronounced a-craw') Confession read aloud by Leah Bradley

"Confessing the Beatitudes" Companion DVD by Margaret Aymer

Large print version and Spanish language version of "Confessing the Beatitudes" are available.

The author has a monthly blog about the study and will check weekly for your comments and thoughts; link to the blog at www.pcusa.org/horizons

Other books recommended under "additional notes on resources" on page 134 of the study and in the Resource Center available for loan are:

"Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World," Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, editors

"The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide" and **"Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading,"** both by Warren Carter

"Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts" by K. C. Hanson and

Douglass E. Oakman

Horizons Magazine offers additional Bible study resources in these issues: Lesson 1, July/August; Lessons 2 and 3, Sept/Oct.; Lessons 4 and 5, Nov./Dec.; Lessons 6 and 7, Jan./Feb., 2012; Lessons 8 and 9, March/April, 2012.

Even more books on the Beatitudes include:

"The Beatitudes for Today" (Acc. #BK8760) by James C. Howell. Kerygma's **"Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life"** (Acc. #BK6410)

READING GROUP ALERT

With the August release of the movie "The Help," based on the best-selling book, church reading groups might be interested in the following:

"Good News from North Haven" (Acc. #BK8146) by Michael Lindvall, enjoyed by several adult Sunday School classes and VBS groups this summer for its funny, touching look at life in a small town Presbyterian church. Discussion questions now available.

Or **"The Christian Atheist"** by Craig Groeschel, believing in God but living otherwise; **"A Prayer for Owen Meany"** by John Irving, two friends, one believes himself to be God's instrument; **"My Brother Charlie"** by Holly Robinson Peete, twins are alike but Charlie is autistic.

ADVENT ALERT

--Watch for the Advent packets for each congregation at the October 14-15 Presbytery meeting at First, Conway. Christmas is on a Sunday this year so why not let YOUR Resource Center provide ideas and items to educate attendees that unusual, blessed Sunday.

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

[Presbytery Calendar](#)

PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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Stated Clerk [CATHY ULRICH](#)

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

Director of Mission Support [BRIAN PERRY](#)

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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>

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