



Presbytery of Arkansas
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THE BANNER

IGPonderings by Interim General Presbyter Rev. Sallie M. Watson

Dear friends,

In the high-tech world my husband inhabits, it's called "open source." The new movement seems to be away from software that requires "secret sauce" in favor of software to which everyone can contribute and improve. As opposed to one authority figure, open sourcing reminds us that, rather than spoiling the broth, many cooks make the broth much richer. The online encyclopedia "Wikipedia" is, for better or worse, an example of that.

In the world of our new thirty-something General Assembly moderator, Bruce Reyes-Chow, it's called "presbymergent." Worship in particular, and our way of being Presbyterians in general, is undergoing change that we cannot yet fully see. Our friend Chip Andrus (pastor of First, Harrison) refers to "emerging worship" because, in his words, we all know it's changing but none of us knows where it is headed. Everyone seems to be contributing to the changes in the way we worship. That spirit of adventurous cooperation was obvious all throughout the General Assembly in San Jose.

In the world of scripture, perhaps it would be called "koinonia." Our friend Steve Hancock (head of staff at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock) preached a fine sermon from Philippians 1 on June 29th, where he translated the Greek word "koinonia" into the English word "Partnership." The word "fellowship" is usually the word chosen in scripture, but as Steve has pointed out, we tend to think more

in terms of "cookies and punch" these days when we hear that word. The NRSV translation gets a little closer in choosing the word "sharing." But as a mother, encouraging my children to "share" is often met with grudging cooperation rather than equality or even innovation. "Partnership," which requires not just cooperation but equal and active contribution from all parties, hits the nail on the head.



Call it what you will - open source, presbymergent, partnering - there seems to me to be a new sense of koinonia afoot in the church today - in our presbytery, in your church, and in our denomination. I see the Holy Spirit at work, helping us to team together even when and where we disagree, building that spirit of cooperation between us. As my good friend Paul Williams has said, "All of us is a whole lot smarter than one of us." And as the apostle Paul would say, you and I are combining our gifts "for the building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12) Thanks be to God!

I'm eager to hear your stories of how the Spirit is at work in your congregation, in your town or in your life. Witnessing to the work of the Spirit is some of the most important, and most exciting, work that we can be about.

Blessings to you,
Sallie

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas. We are composed of almost 15,400 Presbyterians gathered in 93 congregations and one fellowship, two New Church Developments and one ministry located in various towns and cities in this geographical region.

Photos of Church Professionals Requested

General Council of the Presbytery has endorsed the plan to update the photo directory of all minister members of the Presbytery, all actively-serving Commissioned Lay Pastors, and all Christian Educators, youth directors and children's ministry directors in churches. Rather than contract with a commercial company, it is hoped that each church professional will e-mail a digital "mugshot" (head and shoulders) preferably before a light-colored background to brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org. These will be added to the presbytery website and updated quarterly in 2009. Please submit a photo by October 1.

First, Harrison Needs Font Photos

Rev. Charles "Chip" Andrus, pastor of First, Harrison, has requested every congregation take a digital photo of their baptismal font and e-mail it to him at chipandrus@fpcharrison.org by September 15. He is assembling a collection of these photos for possible projection at the reception after worship at the 109th stated meeting of the presbytery on October 9.

Pennsylvania Presbyterians Lend a Hand



Smiles and patient work marked the 27 volunteers from the Helping Hands Ministry of Carlisle Presbytery in Pennsylvania who worked in Holly Grove June 8-13. Housed in the Brinkley National Guard Armory, the Pennsylvania Presbyterians helped to clean and refurbish (above) homes of flood survivors in eastern Arkansas. They thanked Elder Joyce McGarity of First, Brinkley, and Rev. Fern Davis, pastor of Holly Grove Presbyterian, for their invaluable help in making the most of their time "down South."

"The Banner" to Reach More Readers

In response to positive feedback and as part of the current Presbytery vision for communication, the General Council of the Presbytery is working to widen the audience for good news of the work of congregations and the news of opportunities for special events and resources. The ultimate hope is to get to every PC(USA) household within the presbytery bounds the eight-page monthly newsletter.

- For the congregation having a web site, Council and the Presbytery staff request that a link be posted on the congregational website to take members to the Presbytery's web site and/or directly to the online version of "The Banner."
- For the congregation that does not have a website but does use e-mail with their membership, the request is to e-mail each month's "Banner" to all willing recipients in the church who have e-mail addresses and have agreed to receive church-related e-mails.
- For the congregation that has neither a web site nor e-mail communication, the request is to share the hard-copy of "The Banner" with your Session and post several on bulletin boards or in common areas.

Ferncliff Building Storage Units

Ferncliff's Disaster Assistance Center has agreed to find volunteers and build 200 Emergency Storage Units (below) for any of the 378 families whose homes were severely damaged by floods or storms. These 6' x 8' units will be built in pieces at the D.A.C. and delivered to needy families for on-site final assembly. Contact 866.732.6121 or pdacallcenter@sbcglobal.net.



Youth Council Mission Trip Combines Relationships with Labor



Homeowner Miss Scott (center) joins hands with Arkansas youth and young adult volunteers in Louisiana to acknowledge through prayer the changes she has endured since August, 2005.

By Karen Howard

On June 21, 14 people from six congregations across the Presbytery gathered to form a team for the Arkansas Presbytery Youth Council Mission Trip '08. This team of high school youth, college students and adults came together as missionaries in search of the face of God in the Bayous of the Gulf Coast, in the hearts of each other, in the faces of the Louisiana natives and in the stories of tragedy that still linger three years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the area.

The PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Program organized their first youth mission week, held at the Good Earth Village in Houma, LA, south of New Orleans, with youth from IA, KS, IL and AR.

Each team was assigned to a project for the week and the Arkansas team was assigned demolishing a portion of a condemned house belonging to Ms. Gloria Scott, who will turn 80 in August. Ms. Gloria raised six of her seven children in this house that her husband, who passed away one week after Hurricane Rita flooded the area, expanded years ago for their growing family. We heard many stories this week from Ms. Gloria of the life she shared with her husband: of raising her children and of hard work, of growing up in the area and of the love she has for her family, of the hurricane and of the flooding. In these stories the Arkansas team experienced the love that was nurtured and kept alive through the years, memories surrounded by the walls of this condemned house, walls that contained and protected the family for years, the very walls that we were there to tear down.

And tear it down, we did. Through the heat and humidity, the Arkansas team members worked to complete the task and clean up the area in five days. As the week progressed the team experienced eagerness and tiredness, and the joys and frustrations of doing hard work as a group. And through it all God's grace was present as the team embraced the Spirit of God. (For "Minute for Mission" or slide show contact kkaren_kay@yahoo.com.)

Together in God's Grace

by Associate General Presbyterian Joan Erickson

Some might say that it would not take an elaborate research project to let us know that as a mainline denomination evangelism is not our strength. But luckily Martha Grace Reese did such a study because she was then able to study those few churches that were successful with evangelism (using the measure of at least 5 adult baptisms a year as an indicator that they are reaching the unchurched). What she discovered is that we generally cannot express why our faith matters. This is not just important for outreach but Reese says by talking about our faith that, "We understand anything better when we try to say it out loud." Lucky for us she used what she learned to create an integrated, easy to follow process for church leaders, for congregations and for individuals to help us grow in being able to express faith. If you want to learn more or talk about how [Unbinding the Gospel](#) might support the ministry of your congregation, contact me and look at the website

www.gracenet.info. Cluster III has begun study of this book and it will be a part of the event that is being planned for September.

Joan

NEWS OF OUR CLUSTERS

- Rev. Marci Ward of First, Clarksville, is the convenor for **Cluster VII**.

- **Cluster VIII** (central Arkansas) elected Rev. Robert Lowry, First, Searcy, to General Council, Class of 2011, at their annual picnic on June 14. Rev. David Dyer is cluster convenor and Elder Gail Phillips is secretary/treasurer; both are from First, Jacksonville.

NEWS OF OUR RETIRED PERSONS

- A Memorial Service for **Mrs. Helen Maxine Kettlitz, widow of the late Rev. Dr. William Kettlitz**, was held at First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Home on June 6. Rev. Kettlitz, upon his retirement, served 101 Presbyterian, Gamaliel; First, Yellville; and First, Mountain Home before his death on May 26, 2006.

PEOPLE and CHURCH NEWS

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

- Congratulations to **Collins and Jeannie Ford Andrews** on the birth of their first granddaughter. Milla Collins Andrews was born on June 5 to proud parents Boriana and Collins Andrews IV of Fayetteville. Jeannie is Director of Christian Education at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock and moderator of the Committee on Christian Education and Nurture.
- **Jonathan Trotter** has resigned as music director at First, Benton, effective June 8.
- **Doug Walters** has resigned as program director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.
- **Rev. Stan Larson**, interim pastor at Central Presbyterian, Russellville, has accepted the call as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, effective on July 16.
- **Abby Cain**, a life-long member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, begins work as part-time Youth Director at Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock, in July.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

- **First, Little Rock**, organized a three-day visit to the Dickey-Stephens Ball Park to enjoy mid-June baseball games from a sky box.
- **Holiday Island Presbyterian** holds a Wednesday morning men's Bible Study and a monthly men's breakfast at a restaurant.
- **Mount Vernon Presbyterian, Pea Ridge**, baptized two youth and recognized two confirmands in worship on June 15.
- **First, Jacksonville's** handbell choir will lead music in worship and help kick off their annual summer celebration for children on July 20.
- **First, Prairie Grove's Presbyterian Women** are saving "Nickels for Nets" to purchase mosquito netting for families in Africa to prevent malaria.
- **Wynne Presbyterian** gathered school supplies for needy primary and intermediate students during their Vacation Bible School July 6-9.
- **Westminster, Hot Springs**, plans their annual All-Church Retreat on September 13-14 at Ferncliff Camp.
- **First, Rogers**, is hosting Fun Fridays this summer so that parents and children can get to know each other better and the parents can discuss similar concerns.
- **First, Searcy**, is having an adult Sunday School class on the gospel of Matthew and the same text will be the topic of Sunday's sermon.
- **Harmony Presbyterian, Clarksville**, enjoyed an Ice Cream Social on June 15 and the congregation selected the hymns for June 29.

- **First, Clarksville**, held a class on June 1 for all those wishing to learn to prepare communion.
- **First, Benton**, fielded a team of 14 walkers in the Relay for Life in May to benefit the American Cancer Society.
- **First, Dardanelle**, is currently hosting regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Quilting Club as "entry points" into the life and ministry of the church.
- **Trinity Presbyterian, Little Rock**, has launched a seven-week series that melds Bible study with talents that benefit the community, such as studying the Martha and Mary dilemma, the issue of balance, and an introduction to yoga.
- **Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville**, has completed the renovation of the sanctuary and is beginning to renovate the kitchen and fellowship hall which has not been done for over 50 years.
- **First, West Fork**, presented a personalized study Bible and a financial gift to their six high school graduates on May 18. The youth have been active in that congregation of 60 since they were young children in Sunday School.
- The Chancel Choir of Evergreen Presbyterian Church of Memphis sang "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure recently at **First Presbyterian, Marianna**. The public was invited to the free concert and Presbyterian Women fed the choir following the concert.
- **Presbyterian Women of Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay**, held a luncheon on June 10 to install their new board. Associate General Presbyter Joan Erickson conducted the installation ceremony.
- **First, Berryville**, conducts a study for teens every Sunday night and for women every Thursday night.
- **First, Mena**, is planning a visioning study to prepare for their search for a pastor.
- **Barr Memorial Presbyterian, Norman**, has established a church library and will accept donations of Christian books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes.
- **First, Beebe**, welcomed children to a one-day Vacation Bible School which totaled 40% of their Sunday worship attendance.
- **Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista** is sponsoring a Creative Arts Workshop, July 28-31. The workshop is for children ages 6-12, and the program will offer creative arts and puppet/drama workshops.

Idea of the Month

First, Bentonville, will spotlight the artistic and creative members of the congregation with a Creativity Fair-Artwork in the Afternoon. Members are invited to display their painting, photography, textiles, sculpture, musical ability, quilting, woodwork, ceramics and jewelry after worship on August 17.

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

2nd Annual Presbytery-Wide Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast October 12-18, 2008

Who: Anyone age 18 and older.

When: Leave on Sunday, October 12th at 9:00 a.m. from and return Saturday, October 18th to Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs.

What: Most likely we will be doing light construction assistance work.

Where: In the area of Orange Grove, Mississippi through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Why: We want to help rebuild and restore hope to the people of the Gulf Coast.

Cost: The cost is \$20.00 per day for room and board.

Deadline for Registration: September 2, 2008

Organizational Meeting: September 7 at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, Hot Springs.

More Information: Contact Susie Wright (501.525.1367 or 501.620.3335) for details.

Lay Pastor Training Coming in 2009

by Rev. Heinrich Eiler

Registration forms are available on the presbytery web site for the next CLP Academy training program (<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmPresbyteryDocuments.aspx>) or by contacting Brian Perry (501.663.2424/brian@presbyteryofarkansas.org). As previously, this program has been designed to provide training for commissioned lay pastors called for in G-14.0560. Enrollment is open to elders with a sense of calling to serve as lay pastors AND to persons interested in considering such a call as well as persons who desire to deepen their understanding of Christian faith and the ministry of the Church. The program of 10 quarterly week-end sessions Fri. evening-Sun. noon will begin in Feb. 2009. Between these sessions, there will be guided home study and projects. The geographic distribution of those enrolled, among other factors, will determine where the sessions will be held. A \$25 non-refundable fee is required with registration form and a \$50 tuition fee for each weekend. Some scholarship help is available. Questions, call Rev. Heinrich Eiler, Academy Dean (501.922.3987). Deadline for Eiler to receive completed registration forms is Sept. 15.

Financial Corner: The Presbytery Budget

Are you current with your congregation's pledge?

June Revenue \$ 50,384.12

June Expenses \$ 99,207.67

June Deficit \$ 48,823.55-

Year to Date Total

Revenue \$323,515.23

Expenses \$505,635.03

Deficit \$182,119.80-

Presbytery needs your support!

Position Open

Part-time (approximately 25 hours) church secretary/book-keeper. Contact parkhillpres@sbcglobal.net.

Heritage Tour

The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, has a few openings for their Presbyterian Heritage Tour of Scotland, departing Memphis on September 29 - October 8. Cost is \$2,400.00 plus airfare and airfare fees. If interested, call Rev. Don Trent 501.915.2097.

Presbyterian Women Set Fall Gatherings

Cluster	Church	Date
1	First United, Fayetteville	Sept. 27
2	First, Harrison	Sept. 13
3	Faith, Horseshoe Bend	Sept. 13
4	First, Marianna	Sept. 20
5	First, Malvern	Sept. 13
6	First, Ft. Smith	Sept. 13
7	First, Morrilton	Sept. 27
9	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Sept. 20

Bibles to Give

(RSV Translation)

Contact the Church Office

First, Morrilton 501.354.2187

IGP ITINERARY

Interim General Presbyter Sallie Watson will be in the following settings between now and the next Banner publication:

July 6, preaching at First, Fort Smith

July 14-27, vacation

July 29-31, Synod Disaster Response Workshop in Irving, TX

Aug. 2, Ferncliff Board Meeting

Aug. 3, preaching at Trinity, Little Rock

Aug. 4, United Campus Ministry Board Meeting, Fayetteville

Aug. 5, Committee on Ministry and Committee on

Congregational Care and Development,

First, Conway

Aug. 10, preaching at First, Hot Springs

“FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH 2008” TRIP REPORTS



PICTURED ON RIGHT: Instructor Rev. Kendal Land, Students Kelsey Forester, Elizabeth Ellis, Kate Williamson, Instructor Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol, Students Baxter Reecer, Bethany Batterton, and Chaperone Ashley Clark

Tracing portions of Paul’s missionary journeys throughout the ruins of Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome gave each of us a sense of awe and wonder, bringing to life under our feet the importance of the texts we’d spent the year committing to our minds. Praying in the cave where John received the vision that would become the book of Revelation proved nothing short of inspirational. Worshipping God and celebrating the Lord’s Supper along the Aegean Sea moved us to feel the Spirit resonate in our hearts like the sound of the ocean in a seashell. Participating in the Footsteps in Faith 2008 pilgrimage June 9-19 gave five high school students, two instructors and one indispensable chaperone the spiritual, educational, and community-building experience of a lifetime. For your prayers, well-wishes, and financial support, in the spirit of the apostle Paul we say, *“we never cease to give thanks for you as we remember you in our prayers”* (Eph.1:16).

In Christ,

Bethany, Nancy, Ashley, Elizabeth, Kelsey, Kendal, Baxter, Kate

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Responds to 2008 U.S. Storm Survivors

The first half of 2008 has seen the most severe storm and tornado outbreak in 23 years. In addition to the devastating flooding in Iowa and other mid-west states, tornadoes, storms, floods and wildfires have brought destruction to scores of other communities across the U.S.

PDA has responded with \$246,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to meet the needs of storm survivors in 20 different presbyteries, including Arkansas.

An appeal to enable PDA to continue helping flood and storm survivors — including those in Iowa — is being mailed to all PC(USA) congregations, and a downloadable bulletin insert will be on the PDA web site (<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/>).

Please continue to lift up in prayer the many communities and people across the country that have been impacted by severe weather this year.



Coming This Fall Campus Ministry event: MERGE

Saturday, September 13

At Ferncliff Camp

Keynote: John Williams,

Chaplain at Austin College

Music, food, connecting (life, faith, people – all that stuff)

For more info contact: Theresa Spragins

theresa.spragins@gmail.com

Junior High YouthQuake

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

At Ferncliff Camp

Youth in Grades 6-9 (in Fall, 2008)

Theme: You’ve Got a Friend in Me

A camp full of youth, faith, and more fun than you can imagine

For more info contact: Bud McConkie

501.450.3558 or

widgetb@conwaycorp.net



Look for future details on the presbytery web site, in this newsletter and to be mailed out.



RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

July, 2008

9221 North Rodney Parham Road

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Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NiAnn Thompson, Director

niann@presbyteryofarkansas.org

—General Assembly 218 has ended, and accurate accounts of actions are now available. Interim General Presbyter Sallie Watson arranged for every congregation, minister, educator, commissioned lay pastor and any elders for whom we have email addresses to receive on June 30 “Top Ten Actions of the General Assembly” as compiled by New Covenant Presbytery’s General Presbyter Mike Cole. If you did not receive this email but would like to, please contact me. We have ordered and should soon receive the summary of General Assembly meeting prepared after each meeting by “The Presbyterian Outlook” and “Assembly in Brief” from GA. If you would like a hardcopy of either, please contact me.

—RAVE REVIEWS CONTINUE for newer resources as well as “old faithfuls.” Michelle Colvin at First, Clarksville praised the 30-minute animated videos for children from the “**Adventures in Odyssey**” series because “my children LOVED them!” She has checked out the rest in the series

for use in class or small groups. Rev. Susan Gray, pastor of Mountainburg Presbyterian, discovered a children’s book worthy of a RAVE REVIEW, “**I Can Make A Difference**” (Acc. #BK8728) which she used when she was chaplain for summer camp at Ferncliff one week in June. She reports the stories were appropriate for children age 10 to 16: she used them in Bible study, read them to the younger children while they were doing crafts, and used two in vespers services. She gave them high marks for the connection they made with the children’s experience.

—YOUR Resource Center is often asked about what to do with outdated curriculum or old library books. Here are some ideas: play a game at fellowship supper and use a bag of these as the prize, donate them to a local library for their book sales, offer them at PW Fall Gatherings or Cluster Events (after you receive permission), or recycle the paper. Other ideas?

NEW and CONTINUING PRESBYTERIAN CURRICULUM

—“**Be Tween: Exploring Faith & Christian Life with Older Elementary Children**” is a new resource for family faith formation which includes eight sessions for parents and eight for ’twens plus a session for an overnight retreat.

—“**iBelieve: 40 Daily Readings for the Purposeful Presbyterian**” is a series providing 40 devotional readings on an issue important to adult Presbyterians. Small group study guides are included in each book. The first title in the series, “The Apostles’ Creed,” is available now. “Peter and Paul” will be released soon.

—“**We Believe: Workshop Rotation for Presbyterians**” is available for kindergarten through grade six and broadly graded kindergarten through grade five. Three years of rotation are available covering such diverse Bible stories as the shepherds, Last Supper, road to Emmaus, great Commandment, Peter and Cornelius, Creation, boy David, Feeding 5000, Healing the Lepers, Palm Sunday, Great Commission, Joseph, baby Moses, Jonah, Boy Jesus, Lord’s Prayer, Peter’s Denial, Philip and Ethiopian, and Lydia.

New books present interesting views of the Gospel: “The Gospel According to Science Fiction: From the Twilight Zone to the Final Frontier” (Acc. #BK8967), “**Serving from the Heart for Youth: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service**” (Acc. #BK8983) and “**All God’s Creatures: the Blessing of Animal Companions**” (Acc. #BK9022).

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CALENDAR

Jul 15 Cluster III meeting, Faith Presbyterian,
Horseshoe Bend
Jul 17-19 PAM West Conference on Worship & Music,
First, Little Rock
Jul 19-27 Presbytery Trip to Youth Conference, Montreat, NC
Jul 31 Committee on Christian Education & Nurture,
Presbytery Office
Aug 2 Ferncliff Board Meeting
Aug 5 Committee on Ministry, First, Conway
Aug 5 Committee on Congregational Care & Development,
First, Conway
Aug 5 Deadline for submission of articles and photographs
for the August Banner
Aug 8-9 Youth Council retreat, Ferncliff
Aug 9 Campus Ministry subcommittee meeting, Ferncliff
Aug 16 Committee on Administration Budget Hearing,
First, Conway
Aug 16 Arkansas Black Presbyterian Caucus Meeting with
Youth Congress, West End PC, Arkadelphia
For details and additional activities please go to our website.
<http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org/firmEventCalendar.aspx>

Long-awaited Steeple Crowns Church



The congregation of First Presbyterian, Eureka Springs, celebrated on June 4 the installation of a historically accurate 6.5-ton steeple atop their 122-year-old building, the oldest church in that town. The ornamental ironwork (shown above) literally capped the project the congregation had worked on for 12 years.