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Switching Gears Worked for Frank Roth

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

A few months into retirement, Frank Roth II decided he needed to “find something to do.”

He worked a variety of different jobs then set his sights on becoming an ordained pastor. Within 3½ years, he went from “Forester Frank” to “Father Frank.” He’s the rector at Saint Matthias Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa.

That’s quite a switch, right?

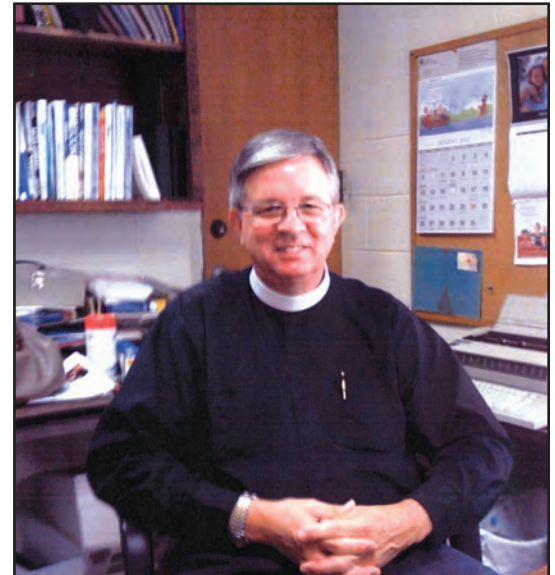
“Well,” Roth said, “the subject matter is a little different, but we talked a lot about stewardship in forestry.”

Frank Roth II started his Extension career in Alabama, but took a job in Arkansas as an Extension forester in 1988. He worked out of the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope.

As Extension forester, Roth traveled often and worked with county agents and Arkansans who were managing forestland. He also worked on various Extension forestry programs, including 4-H. He was involved in summer camps and 4-H forestry contests.

Roth had an interest in forestry from a young age.

Roth, a Louisiana native, continues to counsel and work with people, though the questions he gets as a pastor are different. Roth said for many years he read about people who switched career gears but never thought he would become one of them.



Frank Roth II

He wouldn’t change his trajectory, though. He considers his years at Extension some of the best and feels the real world experience helped prepare him for his current role in the church.

Roth and his wife of 43 years moved to Tuscaloosa in 2008. The Roths are busy with church activities, but they regularly take time to drive over to a cabin they own “way out in the boondocks” for some fishing and downtime.

The Roths have three daughters and six grandchildren.

To reconnect with Frank Roth, contact him at 3933 Woodland Hills Drive, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35405-5414, (205) 553-3600.

– Shannon Magsam

Vetress Strong, Retired EFNEP Assistant, Still Works to Benefit Community

In 1969, Vetress Strong was a homemaker, a mother of three children and a farmer's wife.

That was also the year she added a new title to her name: EFNEP program assistant.

"EFNEP was a pilot program that came to Jefferson County, and I decided to apply for a job," she said.

Strong worked with families with limited income to increase their knowledge about nutrition, budgeting and gardening. She even helped many families plant their own backyard gardens then store the plentiful crops in jars. The homemakers also worked together in large "canning kitchens."

She encouraged the women to save their canned foods and enter them in the county fair in the fall.

"Then, after they won their blue ribbons and their prize money, they could take the food home and eat it," she said.

Strong was promoted to senior program assistant in 1979 and remained in that post until she retired in 2002.

Several years later Strong decided to become certified as a nurse's assistant. While working for Extension, she took various college classes with an eye toward a gerontology degree. She now works in assisted living facilities.

She's also a volunteer Jefferson County ombudsman, advocating for older folks who are in area nursing homes.



Vetress Strong

"It's so rewarding," she said. Strong crochets, knits and enjoys time with her 24 grandchildren. She has five children.

"My husband and five children were my right hand on the Extension journey. I could not have made it without them," she said.

Strong is an active member of the White Hall United Pentecostal Church.

She still finds ways to connect with Extension friends. Strong is a certified Master Gardener and takes part in the Strong Women and Men exercise program several times a week.

Strong, who has been married to her husband, Conray, for 54 years, is a member at large of the homemaker's club.

To reconnect with Vetress Strong, contact her at P. O. Box 2085, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71613-2085, (870) 536-4712.

– Shannon Magsam

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited August 1-31, 2012.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In memory of Inez Hennigan
Michael Wright*

*In memory of Beverly McNew
Michael Wright*

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark. 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

– Merritt Royal

RETIREE UPDATES

Polly Nettles, a great friend of Extension and participant in 4-H activities, died Aug. 28 in Denver where she lived with her daughter, Nancy. Nettles was formerly a home economist for Arkansas Electric Cooperatives. A memorial service was held Sept. 3 at First Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

Ruben Johnson suffered a stroke recently but, according to his wife, Charlotte, was making a great recovery. His address is P. O. Box 163, Magazine, Ark. 72943-0163.

Dorothy P. Sitton, Retired District Program Leader, Dies

Dorothy Price Sitton, age 89, of Little Rock, died Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Sitton attended Arkansas A&M College, Monticello, and received a bachelor's degree in home economics from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree in education from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

She began her Extension career in 1946 when she was appointed assistant home demonstration agent in Cross County. She also served as home demonstration agent in Lonoke County and as a district program leader for home economics in Little Rock. She was employed with Extension

for 33 years until her retirement in 1979.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Anne R. Price, Lonoke; niece, Jan L. Price, Maumelle; nephew, Gregory M. Price of Chicago, Ill.; step-daughter, Jolene S. Klingaman, and husband, Gerald, and step-granddaughter, Angie J. Sikes, Fayetteville.

The funeral service was held at Second Presbyterian Church on Aug. 17. Memorials may be made to Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72227 or to LifeQuest of Arkansas, 3805 W. 12th Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72204.

— *Laura Goforth*

Kenneth W. Adams, Arkansas County Staff Chair, Dies

Kenneth Wayne Adams, 63, of Dumas, died Sept. 3 in Hot Springs.

Adams received an M.S. degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas and joined Extension in 1995 as county Extension agronomist – cotton in Mississippi County. He subsequently served as an agriculture agent in Arkansas County before being promoted to staff chair in Arkansas County in 2012.

He is survived by his wife, Cissy Cowgill Adams; two sons, Brian Wayne Adams of St. Louis, Mo., and Kenneth Taylor Adams of Little Rock; one daughter,

Ashley Adams Heiple of Hot Springs; five grandchildren; brothers Charles Edward Adams of Collierville, Tenn., Kermett Eugene Adams of Fresno, Calif., and Donald Gene Adams of Dermott; and sisters Glenda Adams Donaldson of Hope and Delores Adams Livingston of Dermott.

Funeral services were held Sept. 6 at First Baptist Church in Dumas. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church in Dumas, Mamie's Poppy Plates or American Cancer Society.

— *Laura Goforth*

From the Editorial Board

In addition to voting for President this November, you will also have the opportunity to vote on proposed constitutional amendments and laws. The information comes from the Public Policy Center in the Division of Agriculture and was vetted through a legal review and revisions by organizations or individuals who are opponents and proponents.

Arkansas Sales Tax Increase — The legislature has placed on November's ballot the question of whether or not the state will increase its sales tax from 6 percent to 6.5 percent over the next 10 years to pay off bonds for four-lane highway construction projects. The increase would not apply to groceries and would expire once the bonds are paid off. The constitutional amendment would also dedicate one cent per gallon of the state's fuel tax to the State Aid Street Fund.

Financial Reform for Counties and Municipalities — This constitutional amendment would allow counties and municipalities to create districts where sales tax receipts would be used to pay off bonds issued for infrastructure improvements; to issue bonds to retire unfunded liabilities for closed police and fire pension plans; and to use money from sources other than the general fund to pay off short-term loan debt.

There are two possible issues that might be on the ballot. One legalizes medical marijuana and the other is an Arkansas Casino Amendment. If either or both make their way onto the ballot on or before early October, we'll provide you with more information.

Your editorial board

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Cooperative Extension Service
 2301 South University Avenue
 Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

October Birthdays

- Portia Short, October 1
- Pat Hayden, October 2
- Larry Pryor, October 2
- Frank Jones, October 3
- Gerald Klingaman, October 3
- Patsy McDougald, October 3
- Jimmie Bowling, October 5
- Judy Riley, October 5
- Jim Lipsey, October 7
- Suzanne Wiley, October 8
- Carreather Perry, October 9
- Billie Coleman, October 10
- Glen Ford, October 10
- Lorene McGuire, October 10
- Beth Roberts, October 10
- Judith Urich, October 11
- Lloyd Westbrook, October 11
- Armenthia Willis, October 12
- Sue Coates, October 13
- LaVerne Feaster, October 14
- James Hood, Jr., October 14
- Frank Roth II, October 16
- Hugh Plumlee, October 19
- Mable Tate, October 19
- Mary Shaver, October 20
- James Clower, Oct. 21
- Mark Bryles, October 23
- Jean Frisby, October 24
- Janice Gooch, October 27
- Janella Pugh, October 31

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

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|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| | Cost | Amount Enclosed |
| <i>Extension Cord</i> | \$12.00 | _____ |

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Dept., 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$20.12 Other \$_____

My gift is in honor / in memory of _____

 Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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