

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXV1, Issue 10, October 2020



Pastor Bill Bailey leading the first Bible Study of the 2020-21 season in Hoffius Hall.

Bible Study classes happily resume in Hoffius Hall

By Jan Holtberg

Back by popular demand, the Wednesday Bible Study reconvened Sept. 9 after a hiatus since March.

Twenty-four brave souls and one fearless, knowledgeable leader met in Hoffius Hall. We sat two people to each well-sanitized table, and masks and social distancing were maintained while entering and exiting the hall.

Half the group remained masked throughout the study.

The morning began with a short Gospels Trivial Pursuit game. As a group, we answered 60 percent of the questions correctly. With a score like this, we were now a captive audience. We were all ears.

The subject of study this year will be the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, the shortest and least read.

Mark will be compared and contrasted with the other gospels.

The first session was led by Pastor Bill Bailey, who does a fine job of explaining content with his broad and deep biblical knowledge. Participants asked perceptive questions and offered well-informed insights.

Historically, Bible Study runs from 9-10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays from Labor Day to just before Memorial Day. If you are interested, there is still room with proper spacing in Hoffius Hall. See you there!

Jan Holtberg is a member of the Communication Committee.



When we meet

Sunday worship service
Begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
5 p.m. In Hoffius Hall

Wednesday Bible Study
9-10:30 a.m. Hoffius Hall



For more meeting times see
www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar



Please remember: Covenants begin with a gift

Years ago, a professor tried to explain the ancient Hebrew notion of covenant. In her lecture, she made a helpful and, for me, a memorable distinction between a contract and a covenant.

A contract, Dr. Sakenfeld suggested, is something we choose to enter into, usually for our advantage. In contracts, we negotiate terms, barter for services or pay, but always with the question in mind: “What’s in this for me?”

Covenants, on the other hand, begin with a gift – something received which we did not ask for, deserve, or earn. We do not negotiate for self-interest; instead, we receive gifts obligating us to return out of gratitude. In covenants, we make promises and commit ourselves because we have been blessed.

It occurs to me, despite this year of Covid-19, we have been recipients of God’s blessings. We have received extraordinary gifts we did not ask for, deserve or earn.

All of us have been given, as the Biblical writer says, “houses we did not build, wells we did not dig and vineyards we did not plant.” (*Deuteronomy 6:10-11*).

We also have a wonderful legacy of faithful Presbyterians who built our Kirk’s beautiful sanctuary. We have received generous gifts for an endowment which continues to support mission causes today.

We have ample examples of saints who continue to give of themselves without counting the cost – without asking, “what’s in this for me?”

Indeed, we have much to be grateful for.

October is a season for stewardship and giving at the Kirk. We begin our fall campaign for pledges and estimates of giving for 2021.

As Presbyterians, we believe

Grateful
to God

The Pastor’s Corner Bill Bailey



our possessions are given to us by God as a trust to be used for our own needs and for our families, and also for the good of others. And we believe we are called to be generous in sharing with others, so the work of our Lord may continue.

As in years past, you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee outlining this year’s program. You also will receive an “estimate-of-giving card,” and there will be sermons on giving during the first few weeks of October.

The Session asks you to prayerfully consider your giving to the Lord’s work for the coming year. We invite you to return an “estimate-of-giving” card in worship on Dedication Sunday, Oct. 18. This will help the Session make its plans for mission giving in 2021 and help you

discipline your own giving to the Lord’s work.

As we celebrate God’s covenant of grace this year at the Kirk, let us continue to be faithful and give generously of our “time, talent, and treasure.”

In Christ’s Service,
Bill Bailey



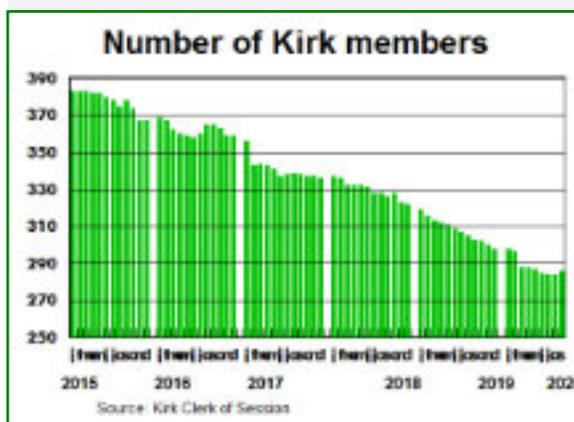
Kirk has added three members since Aug. 14

New Members

The Session was happy to receive two candidates expressing a desire to become members of the Kirk.

Mrs. Cheryl Boehmke and Mrs. Leslie Pfeiffer were received into the Kirk Membership on Sept. 11 by Reaffirmation of Faith (see profiles of the new members on pages 6 and 7).

They have been attending the Kirk for some time. Three new members have joined the Kirk since Aug. 14, which is the right direction for the church to be moving. We pray more in the community find their way to the Kirk.



I encourage you to visit with the new members and answer any questions about Kirk activities and mission.

Church Statistics (as of Sept. 11)

Members – 286.

Family Units – 197.

Session Retreat

The Session has had an annual retreat at Ferncliff in October for 23 years. This year the retreat was canceled because of the pandemic.

The Session will meet Oct. 26 in Hoffius Hall instead of at Ferncliff. The meeting will be a combination of the October Stated Session meeting and the annual retreat.

New Bequests, Gifts, Individual Memorial Plaques, or Markers Policy

Tom Hayek, Grounds and Memorial Moderator, and a special committee worked for the last three months developing a new policy covering Bequests, Gifts, Individual Memorial Plaques, or Markers.

Anyone who wants to give a gift, plaque, or marker recognizing an individual or group for outstanding contribution to the Kirk should review the new policy.

Pictorial Directory

The pictorial directory was to be published this year.

The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



Because of the coronavirus, the company publishing it has shut down.

Carol Clark, Member Outreach Moderator, told the Session the company only has enough workers to handle small activities and could not handle a large pictorial directory such as ours.

Re-imagining Kirk Activities

So many activities done in the past are not possible at this time because of the pandemic. Session moderators and their committees are looking for either new activities or new ways of doing the old ones.

If you have ideas, please share them with committee moderators. They are listed in the Kirk directory.

Hospital Visits

Members of the Kirk sometimes have to go to the hospital for some time and appreciate visitors. However, due to the virus and other problems, hospitals have established restrictions allowing only specific individuals into the hospital.

Here's an example of how restrictions can create difficulties: My grandson Zach and his wife recently had a baby in Dallas. They were in the hospital for almost a week.

During that time, the only one that could come to see the mother and baby was my grandson. My daughter, the grandmother, could not get into the hospital.

Since the hospital was cold, Zach requested a blanket and a pillow. My daughter brought the blanket and pillow to the hospital but could not go inside the hospital. Zach had to meet her at an outside entrance to get the requested items.

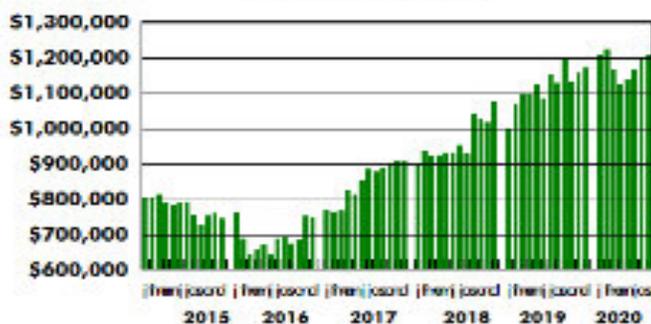
The pandemic has caused a lot of problems and difficulties for everyone. Let us hope there is an end to this sometime soon.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of Aug. 31, 2020

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$36,370	\$31,657	\$290,958	\$333,387
Disbursements	\$37,375	\$24,235	\$299,013	\$281,749
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$4,218	\$3,561	\$33,746	\$34,749
Disbursements	\$4,660	\$8,039	\$37,280	\$35,562
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$40,588	\$35,218	\$324,704	\$368,136
Disbursements	\$42,035	\$32,274	\$336,293	\$317,311
Checking balance				\$121,304
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$63,039
Luke 12:48 fund				\$253,429
Programs fund				\$55,477
Endowment fund				\$651,031
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$60,373
Total special funds				\$1,083,349
				(as of July 31, 2020)
Total all funds:				\$1,204,653

Total funds



Program funds



\$447 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of \$447 was collected in August.

If you wish to give more than a dollar, please use the envelopes in the pew racks. We are always grateful for your generous gifts and prayers.

Contribution reports out

Contribution reports for January through September 2020 are being sent out. Please contact me if you did not receive yours and I will provide you with one.

Review the report carefully and let me know of any discrepancies so they can be corrected before the end of the year. Thank you.

Beverly Schaumburg
Business Administrator

World Peace offering to be marked on Oct. 4

By Nancy Patton

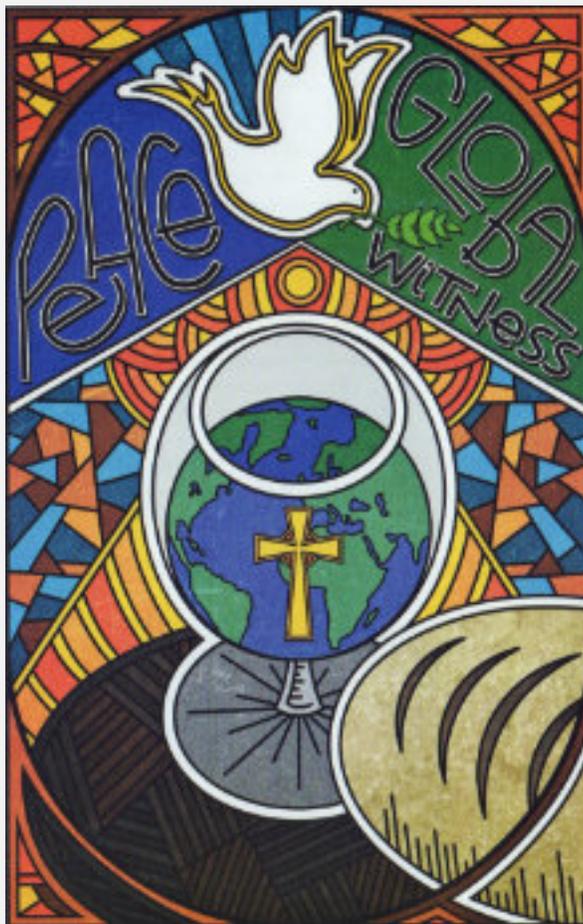
Peace and Global Witness Offering supports efforts to spread Christ's peace.

In these difficult and troubling times, the church needs to stand ready to extend Christ's peace to those who need to hear the message of justice and peace.

One way we extend Christ's peace throughout our community and beyond is by participating in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) Peace & Global Witness Offering.

This unique offering is one of four annual opportunities to give to particular causes, usually on designated Sundays of the church calendar, through this offering. PCUSA has been honoring its commitment to peacemaking efforts around the world.

The Peace Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. It provides resources to



those who serve as international peacemakers dealing with conflict and providing nurturing reconciliation.

Twenty-five percent of the offering stays with local congregations. Another 25 percent goes to Presbyteries and Synods, uniting churches to support peacemaking in their regions. The rest of this offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation by Presbyterians around the globe.

Sunday, Oct. 4, is Peace and Global Witness offering Sunday. However, because of limited attendance at our Sunday services, a unique collection will not be made during the worship service. If you would like to contribute to this PCUSA initiative, send your check to the Kirk office and note your gift is for Peace and Global Witness.

Nancy Patton is Moderator of the Worship Committee.

Stewardship Committee looking ahead to 2021

By Dennis Zymboly

Wow! It is October already, and with it comes the annual Stewardship Drive. It's hard to believe we are at this point on the calendar because church activities barely began when they were interrupted by the pandemic.

With our outstanding, committed Kirk family, receipts for both the general and building funds are ahead of budget, and because of reduced activities, spending is below budget.

Thank you for remembering the Kirk while forced to deal with the limitations placed on us during this continuing struggle.

Our Stewardship Drive kicks off on the weekend of Oct. 3-4. It will

be followed by Commitment Weekend on Oct. 17-18.

When considering your pledge commitment for 2021, remember massive government spending because of the virus will probably mean increased inflation. Kirk expenses are likely to be impacted.

Here's a look at how this year's budget has been re-allocated among the different committees:

Mission Committee – \$100,122, or 19.9 percent of the total.

Worship – \$103,822, 20.6 percent.

Congregational Care – \$56,786, or 11.3 percent.

Member Outreach – \$3,100, or 0.6 percent.

Education – \$49,518, or 9.8 percent.

Fellowship – \$3,500, or 0.7 percent

Communications – \$4,496, or 0.9 percent.

Administration – \$73,512, or 14.6 percent.

Finance – \$23,986, or 4.8 percent.

Building – \$65,712, or 13.0 percent.

Grounds – \$19,862, or 3.9 percent.

Total – \$504,416

If you have any questions, give me a call at 984-2387.

Dennis Zymboly is chairman of the Stewardship subcommittee of the Finance Committee.



Leslie Pfeiffer is one of the Kirk's new members. (Bob Morrow photo)

Leslie Pfeiffer becomes a new member of the Kirk

By Dotty Rector

New Kirk member Leslie Pfeiffer is the result of persistent evangelism of Kirk member Sally Fink.

Leslie was the executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association in Arkansas before her move to Hot Springs Village 12 years ago. Sally held the same position in Louisiana. They became friends many years ago, and Sally says she acted as “mother of the bride” to Leslie, taking care of all arrangements for Leslie’s wedding 30 years ago in Hawaii.

Leslie and her fiancé, Jim Pfeiffer, and Sally and her husband, Tom, were attending a tennis convention in Hawaii, and they planned and executed a beautiful wedding there in record time.

Leslie and her husband moved to the Village from Little Rock, where she had lived all her life. She played tennis frequently until recent health issues made it challenging to play. Now she plays a lot of bridge.

She has a daughter in Little Rock and two grandchildren, one a sophomore at the University of Arkansas and the other in high school.

New member

Traveling is Leslie’s passion. She and her husband travel a lot, primarily to the Caribbean, where her husband scuba dives. They often take a grandchild with them.

She also frequently hikes in the Village and Arkansas state parks.

“We are very busy people,” says Leslie.

For now, Leslie attends the Saturday evening informal Kirk services. She feels very fortunate to live here and is enjoying life immensely.

When we all can worship together again, we can give Leslie a hearty “in-person” welcome.

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

Cheryl Boehmke enjoys delving into the past

By Susan Morrow

Cheryl Boehmke, one of the Kirk's newest members, has a fascinating family history. Her photo gives a clue to her absorbing ancestral roots.

Cheryl first visited the Kirk during the 2018 Kirkin' o' the Tartans celebration. She and her husband, Dan, moved to Hot Springs Village the prior year for their "second retirement."

Wisconsin friends who wintered in the Village put our community on their radar screen for later exploration. A subsequent visit to the Village convinced them this was the place.

Cheryl is happy traveling as much as possible, and she and Dan migrate south to Florida for the winter months.

An especially meaningful trip was to Scotland and Ireland in 2012 to trace the ancestral roots of the Lamont clan of Scotland.

In 2004 for her "first retirement," Cheryl moved from Waukesha to Wisconsin Dells, Wis. This move coincided with her retirement from a career administering and fundraising for non-profit organizations.

A native of Chicago, Cheryl earned a degree in psychology at Illinois College. A few years later, with two young children (a boy and a girl), the family moved from Illinois to Wisconsin.

Cheryl's loves are traveling, reading, walking on Village trails to absorb the peace and solitude of nature, and all things historical.

She is keenly interested in Scottish and Irish ancestral



Cheryl Boehmke is a new member of the Kirk, and wears her tartan colors proudly. (Bob Morrow photo)

history, especially the Clan Lamont dating back to as early as 500 C.E.

When asked what she most appreciates about the Kirk community, Cheryl said, "the music program, which is a gift to the congregation, and Pastor Bill Bailey's sermons, which provide food for thought that feeds my soul in a challenging world."

Now to the family history. The Clan Lamont tartan in Cheryl's picture is the key.

She traces her Presbyterian roots back

to the Lamont clan – a predominant Protestant clan from Northern Ireland sent to Scotland as a Protestant settlement and later scattered by the neighboring Campbell Clan.

Cheryl's grandparents from the Lamont clan came in the early 1900s from Northern Ireland to the Chicago area.

The Lamont clan motto is "Neither spare nor dispose."

When you welcome Cheryl to the Kirk, you can ask her to explain. We are grateful to have Cheryl at the Kirk.

Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.

New member

Advent-in-a-box can help boost your holidays

By **Dave Hamilton**
and **Susan Morrow**

Here's a chance to try something you might not have considered before, something developed by Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center.

Much like the "Camp in a Box" developed for the summer, Ferncliff has designed a winter box focused on the Christian Advent Season. Each box contains a month of activities for the four weeks of Advent, along with a special Christmas surprise.

Included are an Advent scripture story, prayer, discussion and reflection questions, and activities connecting the scripture and theme – games, recipes, ornament making, service activities, and holiday traditions around the world.

Developers of Advent-in-a-Box hope families, churches, and couples or single adults without children use it for spiritual support in this special Christian season and in these uncertain times.

Two editions are available – Family, and Older Adults for those whose children have "left the fold."

The family edition is intergenerational and



appropriate for families with young children. It's a perfect way to provide your family something special to help celebrate the Advent season during this period of the coronavirus and "social distancing."

The Ferncliff website says the "Older Adult" edition is for mature disciples. It

is appropriate for couples or singles without children at home, grandparents, the homebound, or seniors living in assisted living and nursing facilities.

In recognition of varying financial resources, Ferncliff is offering a voluntary three-tier cost plan – a subsidized \$29 rate, an "actual-cost" \$36 rate, or a \$49 rate. Shipping and handling are an extra \$7-\$15 depending on location.

Advent-in-a-Box will ship before Nov. 20 in time for the first Sunday of Advent on Nov. 29.

The Advent-in-a-Box program helps sustain the ministries of Ferncliff. For more information and an online order form, go to www.ferncliff.org/advent-in-a-box/.

Dave Hamilton is a Kirk member, and Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.

Heartprints:

Missing You

By **Judy Corwin**

We understand. We really do. But still, we can't stop missing you.

On Sundays, we look around. Your friendly face can't be found.

This virus sure has changed each life, filling our world with fear and strife.

We've had to adjust, our days have changed, old routines ... now rearranged.

Church is still that special place, even with cloths that mask each face.

Hymnals and Bibles have been stashed away, but Sunday's still a special day.

Special care, with safety in mind ... sanitizers, marked pews, a peace you will find.

Bill's sermon, the choir with a lovely song ... so far nothing has gone wrong.

The parking lot ... not many a car. Has social distancing now gone too far?

But visiting outside church gives us time to check that all are doing just fine.

We understand. We really do. But still, we can't stop missing you.

Apprehensions, maybe fright ... we know we'll see you when the time is right.

A note to our congregation:

I realize each of you has legitimate reasons for not coming to the Kirk just now. I appreciate the videos provided to keep our faith connected and to God. We all pray that this coronavirus will be defeated so we can all come together to worship in our wonderful church.

I pray we learn from this time, and our faith becomes more vital, and we can stay connected with our loved ones, as well. God bless this world. God bless the Kirk.

Judy Corwin is a member of the Kirk.





Circle 4 members of PW holding their first meeting of the new year are (clockwise from lower left) Norma Stevens, Barbara Fuquay, Emily Faulk, Pat McPheters, Anne Bailey, Carol Clark, Judy Rosenthal, Becky Wakefield, Susan Pendergrass, Sally Fink and Helen Van Stone. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

PW Circles happily get the new season underway

By Vicki Rosenquist

Two of the four PW Circles began the new year on Monday, Sept. 14. Circle 1 met in Hoffius Hall at 1:30 p.m., while Circle 4 met there at 7 p.m.

After Circle 1 shared their experiences during the last six months of social distancing, they continued their study of the Horizons Series “The Ten Commandments,” led by Martha Nielsen and focusing on the Fourth Commandment.

Eleven members attended the meeting. Everyone enjoyed gathering in fellowship and faithful Bible study.

Circle 4 had a good turnout, with 12 members attending. Anne Bailey led the Bible study as the group continued its study of “The Bible That Jesus Read.”

Circle 2 will have its first meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12, in Hoffius Hall. They will begin their Bible study using the Horizons series “The Ten Commandments.”

Circle 3 was planning to meet in September but had to cancel the meeting because Good Sam was closed to gatherings.



We look forward to a successful PW year and invite and encourage all Kirk ladies who don't belong to a circle to visit one or all four circles. You will hopefully find one that is just right for you.

Vicki Rosenquist is Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

Kirk-aided Habitat home should be finished in October

The Habitat for Humanity House, which the Kirk is supporting through the Apostles' Build Project, is showing progress.

This has been a challenging year for construction volunteers.

Unusually heavy rainfall and safety accommodations for the coronavirus have combined to delay work on all projects in Garland County.

The Habitat house at 113 Watt St. in Hot Springs should be completed in early October. Volunteers are installing floors. Appliances should be arriving soon.

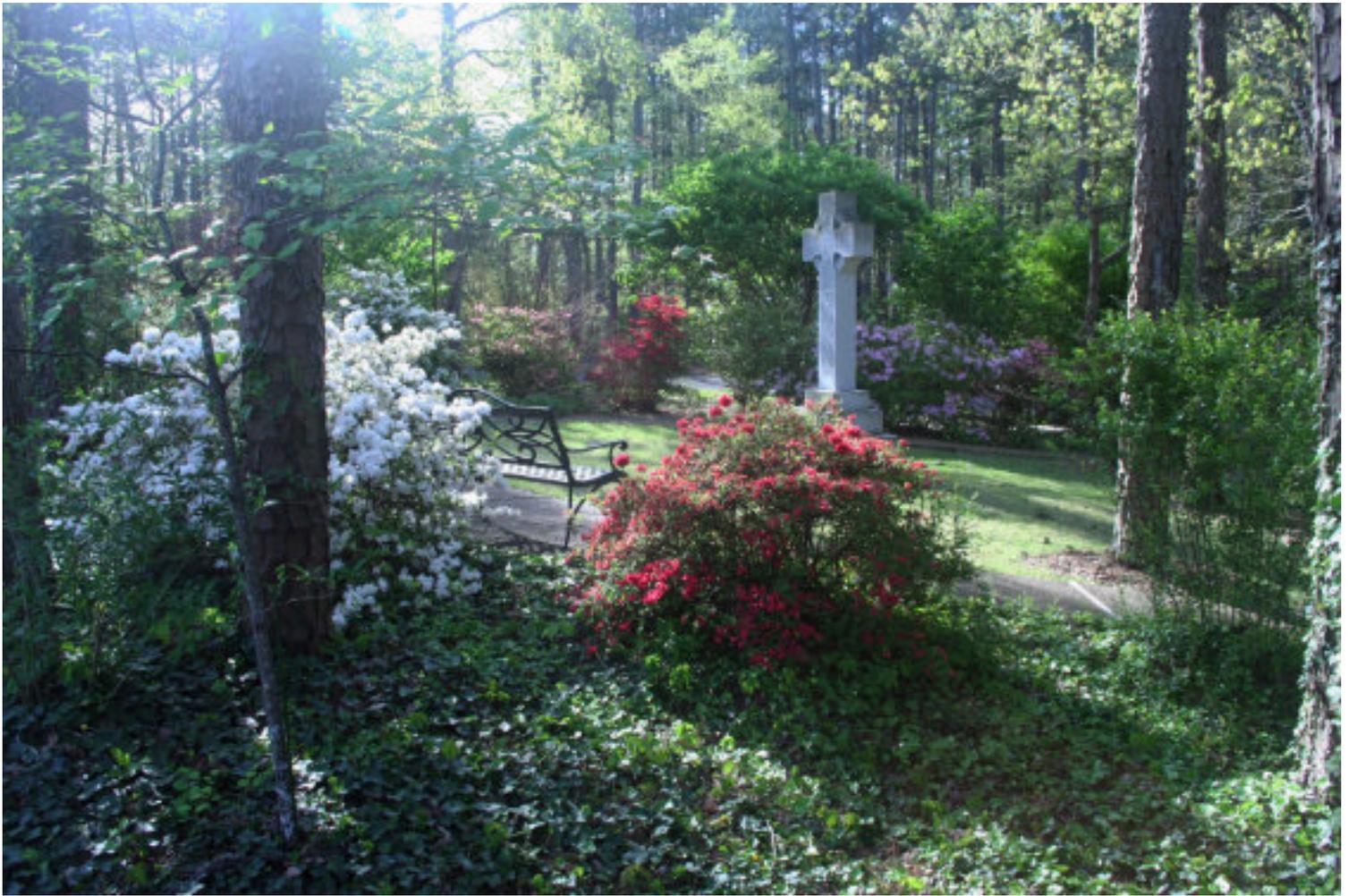
Plans for the home dedication will be announced as soon as the information is available.



Two Habitat Humanity volunteers are seen here in the final stages of laying floor. (Harry Wakefield photos)



Habitat for Humanities home at 113 Watt St. In Hot Springs should be finished this month.



Join the crew on Oct. 2 and help keep the Kirk grounds looking great

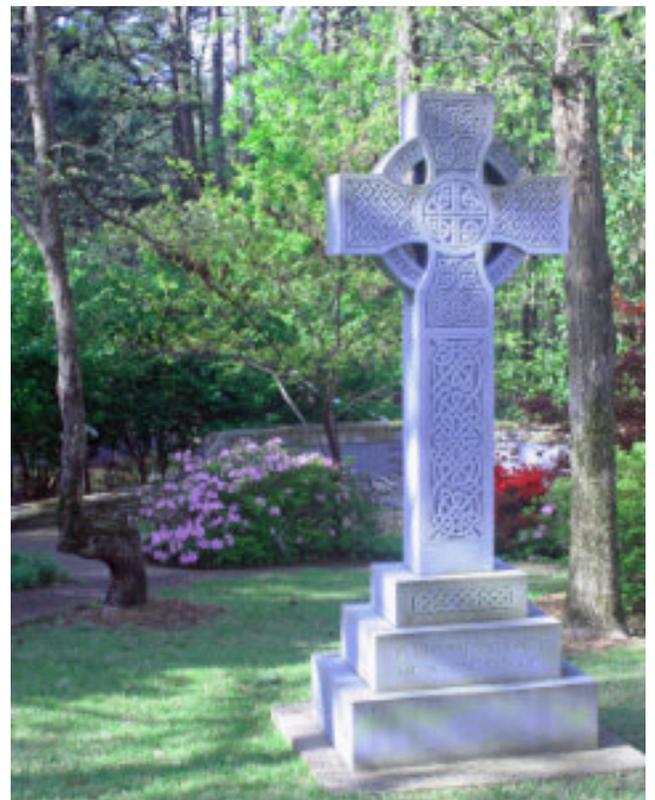
The next planned garden workday begins at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2.

We will remove weeds, weed whack, pick up debris, blow off the walkways as needed, and do some pruning. We'll have tools, but you're also welcome to bring your own.

Participation in the workday is an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of the Kirk and socialize outdoors while maintaining a safe social distance.

See you there!

*– Tom Hayek, Moderator
Memorial Garden and Grounds Committee*



Foundation gift honors Kirk member Rick Niece

The Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation made a \$525,000 gift to University of the Ozarks in honor of the University's long-time former president and foundation board member, Dr. Rick D. Niece.

Niece, a member of the Kirk, was president of Ozarks for 16 years – from 1997 to 2013 – and served as a director on the Bentonville, Arkansas-based Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation (WFCSF) from 1997 to 2019. Niece and his wife, Sherée, are retired and living in Hot Springs Village.

The foundation approved the gift to the University to honor Niece's 22 years of service to the foundation and to "preserve the lasting impact he has made for hundreds of students from the U.S. and around the world."

A majority of the gift – \$500,000 – will go into the Dr. Rick and Sherée Niece Endowment for Student Enrichment fund, which provides competitive grants to students in support of their research, creative projects, and professional preparation through internships and study abroad.

The remaining \$25,000 will be invested in the Lewis H. and Dortha J. Geyer Niece Scholarship Endowment Fund, named in honor of Niece's parents and provided for students majoring in performing arts and communications.

Jim Walton, a former chairman of the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation, said, "Dr. Niece's vision, generosity and sense of service made a lasting impact for the University, our state and the field of education, as well as for our family. He and my mother, Helen Walton, worked closely and shared a commitment to creating access to opportunity through education for students in Arkansas and across the world."

Under Niece's leadership, the private, Presbyterian-affiliated university saw student enrollment increase by 20 percent, the endowment grow by more than 200 percent, and the number of full-time faculty increase from 28 to 48.

The school raised nearly \$150 million during Niece's tenure and added several new facilities, including four apartment-style residence halls, the Walker Hall teacher education and communications center, the Rogers Conference Center and the Mabee Student Fitness Center.

Niece was named president emeritus by the University in 2013.

"We are excited and humbled that the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation would choose to honor



Sheree
and
Rick
Niece

Dr. Niece's service in this special way," said Ozarks President Richard Dunsworth.

"He and Sherée certainly left an indelible mark on Ozarks through their work, and these gifts to the endowments they established will build on their efforts to change students' lives for generations to come."

Niece, who was vice president of the WFCSF for several years, said it was an honor to serve on the board of a foundation whose mission includes the support of higher education.

"I have served on a number of boards during my lifetime, and the 22 years as a member and vice president of the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation were the most memorable and rewarding," Niece said.

"The foundation's generosity has done so much for so many. I am especially proud of our generous gifts to several Arkansas universities for academic programs and student needs."

The Nieces established three endowed programs at Ozarks, including the two endowments that will benefit from the Walton gift.

"Sherée and I are eternally grateful to the Walton family and the foundation for touching our lives, once again, in such a moving and significant manner," Niece said. "Our association with the Waltons is an honor beyond compare."

The foundation was established by the family of Walmart founder Sam Walton and his wife, Helen Walton, who had a 50-year association with Ozarks.

The connection began in 1956 when she sent her son, Rob, to a Presbyterian Church summer camp that was being held on campus. Helen Walton was first elected to the University's Board of Trustees in 1975 and was elected honorary lifetime chair of the board in 1985.

This article was prepared by the University of the Ozarks.

Jamie says thanks for cheers during recovery

I want to thank my Kirk family for all the kindnesses extended to me while recovering from my recent shoulder-replacement surgery.

The calls, cards, food, and most of all, your prayers have been much appreciated.

A special thank you to our fabulous Greenhorns for providing several meals, which also delighted Rick.

Love in Christ,

Jamie Federick



Coronavirus has added restrictions on visits to those at Good Sam's

Some have been asking why visitation to Good Samaritan nursing home has stopped. It's because of restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The facility would need to progress to Phase III before visitors can see residents in Cedar Lodge, and then only family or caregivers would be allowed. In Phase III, visitors other than the family could wave while residents stand at a window.

We know this isn't easy. Please keep everyone in your prayers. If you have questions call Sally Fink, Moderator of the Congregational Care Committee, at 501 984-3537.



Golf group sidelined until next year

By Jim Hess

Under normal conditions, October would see our final event for our 2020 golfing season.

Due to the unprecedented challenges we now face, our Kirk Sunday Golf group has suspended play for October 2020. In these times, we encourage all to wear masks, use social distancing, and wash your hands frequently. We wish you all continued good health and, most importantly, keep up your golfing skills.

If you are new to our Kirk or are a current member and would like to join our Kirk Sunday Golf Group, we welcome you.

We are couples and single golfers of various abilities who play 9 or 18 holes, your choice. We play our Village courses with dinner to follow after golf the second Sunday of each month, April through October. If you would like additional information, call me at 922-2326.

Jim Hess is the Kirk Golf Group coordinator.

Check out Greenhorns' 'Soup and More' food in the Kirk freezer

The Greenhorns "Soup and More" mission has been stirring up delicious meals in the Kirk kitchen.

Each month during the coronavirus pandemic, the Greenhorns have prepared more than 75 soups and casseroles. The meals provide a much-needed service to Kirk members and friends in the Village.

If you have visited the well-stocked freezer in the Kirk kitchen, you may have noticed a donation envelope. Your voluntary donations are appreciated and allow this mission to continue.

If you are new to the Kirk and need more information about "Soup and More," please call Carol Clark at 915-8497.

Holy Bible is available at your fingertips, literally.

I grew up in a home where there was always a Bible near at hand. Usually positioned on a living room or bedside table, these pristine books were hardly opened, let alone read aloud, except on Christmas day or Easter.

We were Presbyterians, after all, and devout to boot. But we did hear the Bible read every Sunday very seriously from the pulpit and in Sunday school where attendance was compulsory, and teaching was earnest but spotty.

As a child, I also had a succession of versions of the Bible, presented to me at various stages in my progression to confirmation.

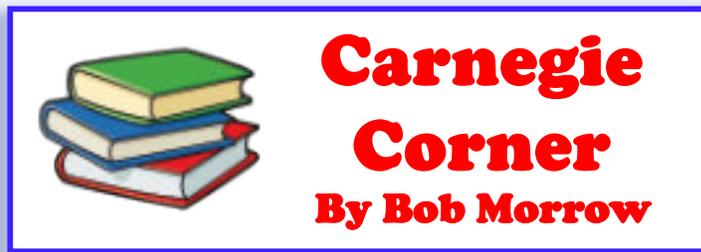
It's hard for me to say when I became aware of my attraction to the Bible. It might have been early on when our pastor's wife wrote a play about the writing of the Gospel of Mark, and I was selected to play John Mark.

By my freshman year in college (Baylor), required first-year courses included both the Old and New Testament, and my interest was piqued. Still, after many years of off and on Bible study participation and selective reading of familiar favorites, reading the Bible takes effort.

What makes it hard is the Bible is such an odd collection of archaic and often confusing, repetitive, and sometimes contradictory texts.

Then there are the versions, translations, and paraphrases to choose from. You may know the old joke about the parishioner who said, "If the King James version was good enough for St. Paul, it's good enough for me!"

The King James is a latecomer among early English translations, the earliest being the Wycliffe Bible produced in 1382. From the early 1600s, the King James version held sway for nearly 300 years until the American Standard



Version was introduced in 1901. It was followed in relatively close succession by the Revised Standard Version in 1952.

It is hard to imagine, but there are nearly 700 versions of the complete Christian Bible – the Old and New Testaments. Most, by far, having been produced in our lifetimes.

With so many versions available to suit any particular style, one would think Bible literacy must be at an all-time high. As Pastor Bailey has pointed out, this appears not to be the case.

Yet reading and studying the Bible has never been easier, thanks to the geniuses in Silicon Valley.

You no longer need a personal library packed with large books with small print. Many Bible websites and

apps provide immediate access to the Bible for reading, listening, or studying.

Susan Unger shared with me the website YouVersion.com (also an app).

"I use the YouVersion Bible App on my phone," Susan says, "but it can also be accessed online via the computer.

"I have a daily scripture emailed to me each day. There are tons of devotionals to sign up for and ways to include friends and interact together. You can read the entire Bible, and there are many versions to choose from."



A portion of the Bible resources in our Kirk library, shown here, is now easily available "to hold in your hand" thanks to smart phones and the internet. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

Please turn to page 15



Happy dates



Birthdays

Martha Nielsen	Oct. 1	Jim Reimers	Oct. 8	Marilyn Olson	Oct. 22
Charlotte Massey	Oct. 3	Dean Kerr	Oct. 9	Bill Durbin	Oct. 23
Clark Mowry	Oct. 3	Charles Bradley	Oct. 12	Frank Morgan	Oct. 24
Howard Baldwin	Oct. 4	Jim Erickson	Oct. 16	Jerry McAnarney	Oct. 25
Sharon Collar	Oct. 5	Gene Carlisle	Oct. 16	Janette Wiard	Oct. 25
Hellen Sheehan	Oct. 6	Marianna Adams	Oct. 17	Randy Toney	Oct. 27
Jean Eiler	Oct. 7	Rowena Easter	Oct. 20	Woodie Barefield	Oct. 29
Don Loveday	Oct. 7	Sissy Wilson	Oct. 21	Keith Brown	Oct. 31

Anniversaries

Oct. 8	Linda & Bob Wessel	43 Years	Oct. 20	Linda & Ted Hommema	47 Years
Oct. 10	Cheryle & Stanley Dean	56 Years	Oct. 24	Helen & Norm Fisher	61 Years
Oct. 17	Cindi & Jim Erickson	39 Years	Oct. 28	Joyce & Frank Leeming	47 Years

Yes, the Bible is complicated, but worthy of your understanding and continuing enjoyment



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A favorite of mine is the Bible Gateway site (biblegateway.com), where you can read or listen to Bible verses from up to 60 different versions. Using the audio tool, you can select a narrator of your choice (I like David Suchet reading the NIVUK).

There is even a dramatized audio track, and study tools as well as Bible reading plans.

Regardless of the difficulty of comprehending the whole, we believe the collection of writings called the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

I confess, despite the difficulty, I never come away from reading the Bible empty-handed, more likely knocked off my feet.

Frederick Buechner offers this advice when approaching the Bible:

"If you look at a window, you see the flyspecks, dust, the crack where Junior's frisbee hit. If you look through a window, you see the world beyond.

"Something like this is the difference between those who see the Bible as a holy bore and those who see it as the Word of God, which speaks out of the depths of an almost unimaginable past into the depths of ourselves."

Winnie the Pooh's advice resonates today

By Lowell Gardner

George Bernard Shaw once wrote: "Youth is the most beautiful thing in this world – and what a pity it has to be wasted on children."

As we endure and come to grips with the "new normal" regarding the coronavirus and its ramifications, it may be wise to examine Shaw's observation more closely.

To do this, we turn to the self-proclaimed "Bear with Very Little Brain," Winnie the Pooh. He said, in the 2018 movie *Christopher Robin*, "I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I've been."

The often expressed wish these days is for things to get back to normal. Leading medical professionals warn it may never happen.

The contagion rate of this virus is like the common cold. So typical is elusive, even in the face of a vaccine. Recent surveys indicate only seven out of 10 will agree to take a vaccine. Walk away from where we've been.



For the majority of Kirk members, a new normal is nothing new. Retirement and aging lead to new normalcy every day. Pooh says, "Doing nothing often leads to the very best of something."

Youth is beautiful. Our Lord, in *Matthew 19:14*, says, "to little children belongs the very heavenly kingdom." What is Jesus teaching, and to what does G.B. Shaw allude?

Imagination! Creativity!

The writer says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Covid-19 prompts us all to take a walk, hear the birds sing, smell the roses. Call the kids and grandkids more often. Call friends. Read a book. Really listen to good

music. Wear a mask to protect others. Begin or revisit a hobby. Imagine a unique way to serve safely. Be still and be assured. He Is God!

Lowell Gardner is a former Moderator of the Communication Committee.

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