

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIV, Issue 4, April 2018

Ruth Hamilton has thrived in top state job

By Jan Holberg

The Kirk's Ruth Hamilton is winding down her busy three-year term as Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas, the administrative body of church elders and ministers representing approximately 80 local congregations.

Ruth began her journey with the Presbyterian Church in her youth.

She and her husband, Dave, have attended churches of different denominations depending on where Dave's job took them. Finally, in the late eighties, they were transferred to Houston and returned home to a Presbyterian Church where her journey began in earnest.

In 1991, Ruth was ordained as an elder at the Houston church and joined the staff as director of the Children's Ministry. She took classes at Austin Theological Seminary to obtain her Christian Education certification.

Ruth continued her staff position in Houston until she and Dave



Ruth Hamilton is completing her third year as Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas. (Robert Sonnen photo)

retired and moved to Hot Springs Village in 2001. They soon found their new church home, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

Since joining the Kirk, Ruth has served on the Education, Mission, Evangelism and Fellowship committees. She co-chaired the Nominating Committee which recommended Bill Bailey as our pastor.

Ruth has served as Moderator of the Kirk's Presbyterian Women, and completed the Presbytery of Arkansas' program for Commissioning Ruling Elders. Through the years she also served on a number of committees of the Presbytery.

In 2015, Ruth was nominated for Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Ruth was elected and is serving the final year of a three-year term.

Her first position was Vice Moderator. Last year she served as Moderator and this year she serves as Moderator of the Coordinating Team.

Ruth's duties have included helping to plan and moderate Presbytery meetings during the year. She works with the staff at the Presbytery office in Little Rock and

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
5 p.m. in Hoffius Hall



Sunday children's class
10 a.m. in the Journey Room

Wednesday Bible Study
9 a.m. in Hoffius Hall.



Thursday Discussion Group
9 a.m. in Hoffius Hall



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



Season's greeting: 'Hallelujah, Christ is risen'

With our Christians brothers and sisters all over the world, we Presbyterians at the Kirk will celebrate Easter on April 1.

We will have triumphant music with hymns and trumpets and strong hallelujahs. We may even hear an inspirational sermon. All of us will give thanks to the one who has conquered death and who promises life eternal.

Perhaps it is ironic that Easter comes on April 1 this year. A reminder that God will get the last laugh.

As John writes in the Book of Revelation: "God will wipe away every tear and death will be no more.

Neither will there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for these former things will have passed away." *Rev.21:4*

For people of faith, Easter has always been much more than simply a celebration of the renewal of life we see in nature. Easter is more than a time of new outfits and Easter egg hunts. These are all part of our cultural heritage.

But for the church, Easter is primarily the time to celebrate Christ's victory over death. It reminds us we do not have to be afraid of death; that we can live our lives with joy and hope, trusting our futures belong to a God who raises the dead. "Christ died, was buried and has been raised!"

So the church confesses and so we believe – this is our hope.

Shepherd groups a key element in the church

By Dick Massey

The purpose of our Shepherd Groups, according to the Leader's Handbook, is to "promote fellowship, keep the pastor aware of problems, establish a communications network, and to provide an avenue of prayer for each other."

Shepherd Group 3 initially seeks to fulfill its purpose as one of two "Dinner Groups."

We have 29 active and 14 communication-only members. Once a month, one of the members volunteers to select a local restaurant and make arrangements with the management to accommodate our group.

The dinners are a very enjoyable event. In addition to good food they do not have to prepare themselves, participating diners can exchange news concerning personal experiences, children, grandchildren and other family stories.

They share their own needs as well as the needs of others, perhaps in reference to inactive or

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



It is also important to remember Easter is a season in the church's liturgical calendar – the seven Sundays of Easter until Pentecost, May 20.

Even in St. Paul's day, Christians were already meeting, not just on the Jewish Sabbath, as the Commandment insisted, but also on the first day of the week – the day of resurrection.

For the earliest Christians, as well as for us today, every Sunday is a celebration of the new life we share in Christ. Every Lord's Day is a reminder that our hope is in the one who raises the dead.

It is my hope your faith will be renewed in this season of Easter. May we all rediscover the power of Christ's death and resurrection which give us hope.

I will greet you this Easter with "Hallelujah, Christ is risen!" And you will respond with Christians all over the world, "Christ is risen, indeed!"

Glory to God.



From the flock Reports about our Shepherd Groups

communication-only members. Some members may share life experiences or cinematic theater they enjoyed or war stories from the golf course.

And there is no clean up afterwards.

We welcome any who are not active in any other Shepherd Group to join us for dinner and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

You can contact Charlotte or Dick Massey at 501 922-2385 or Sylvia Tate at 870 219-3260 for more information

Dick Massey is co-leader of Shepherd Group 3.

Alice Sparks is the newest Kirk member

New member:

Session received Alice Sparks as a new member on March 9. Alice comes to the Kirk by Reaffirmation of Faith. She lives at 86 Murillo. Her email address is alicesparks90@gmail.com. Take time to visit with Alice when you see her at church or around Hot Springs Village.

Loss of a valued member:

Larry Stewart passed away on March 2. Larry was an active member of the Kirk until his health slowed him down.

A Memorial Service was March 9 at the Kirk with internment in the Kirk's Memorial Garden Columbarium.

Church statistics as of March 9, 2018:

Members – 336

Family units – 252.

2017 annual report:

The 2017 Annual Report has been completed. It includes information supplied by our different committees.

I would urge you to get a copy and read it. The Kirk is involved in many activities. This publication helps us learn about the many committee accomplishments in 2017.

This report, which is helpful to new members looking for places to serve in the Kirk, are in the brochure stands in the narthex and outside the office.



Annual picnic:

Mark June 6 on your calendar for the upcoming Annual Picnic. It will be at Balboa Pavilion. The picnic has been an annual event at the Kirk for more than 20 years.

Spring lecture:

The Rev. Georgia Senor, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville, will speak April 26 in Hoffius Hall. She will discuss "The Sacred is Now – God in Everyday Life, Even As We Continue Our Journey Home."

Pastor Senor will speak at 9 a.m. and after lunch.

The Greenhorns will prepare lunch for those attending. There will be a \$5 charge to cover the cost of the noon meal.

Sound loops:

One was installed in the sanctuary and soon others will be installed in Hoffius Hall and in the choir loft. Session approved them at the March meeting.

Ruth enjoyed traveling to Arkansas churches

Continued from page 1

helps set agendas and plan workshops and worship services.

Other responsibilities include representing the Presbytery at the installation and ordination of pastors, and representing the Presbytery at various church functions.

Ruth said the time commitment is similar to that of a part-time job without pay, but with rich satisfaction in accomplishing God's work.

She has enjoyed learning about the governance of the Presbyterian

Church, experiencing the joy of ordaining and installing new pastors, working with congregations joined together in the work of the Lord, and meeting many supportive people who are living out an authentic Christian ministry.

Ruth says she has formed a deeper relationship with her husband, Dave, in the hours they have traveled together through the beautiful state of Arkansas fulfilling the work of the Presbytery.

Ruth is looking forward to her last term and embraces the challenge and continued growth provided by

the learning experiences that come with the job.

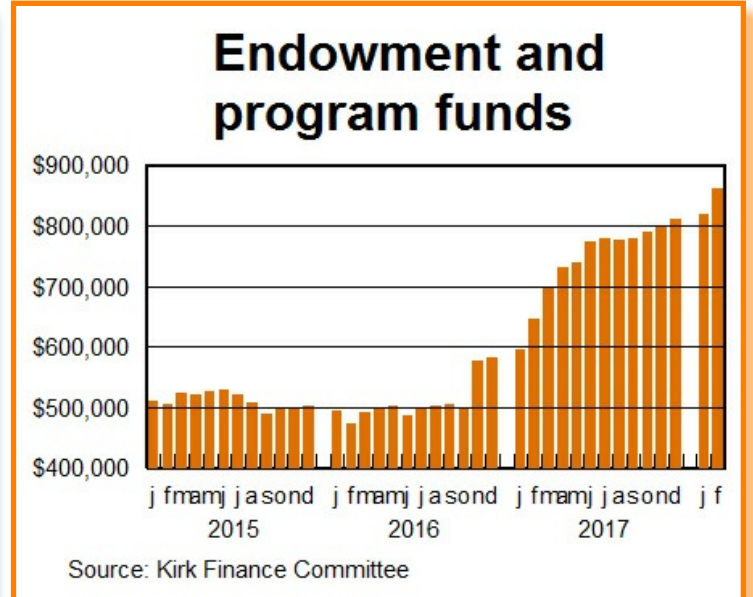
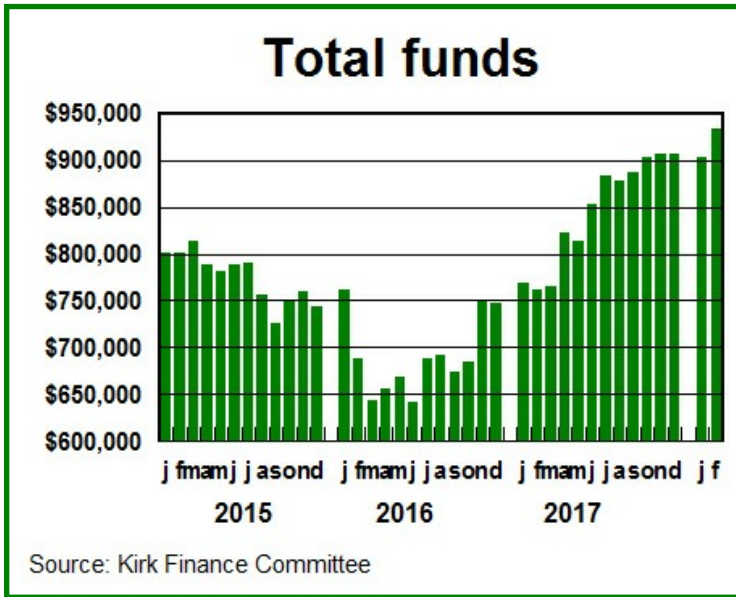
After her last term, Ruth will represent the Presbytery of Arkansas at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUSA) in 2020.

When asked how she would rate the experience as Moderator of the Presbytery, Ruth said with a big smile: "It has been a VERY positive and satisfying experience. In retrospect I can see that God has led me down this path."

Jan Holberg is a member of the Communication Committee.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report Year to date as of February 28, 2018

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,311	\$ 32,484	\$ 72,621	\$ 84,933
Disbursements	\$ 36,311	\$ 28,764	\$ 72,627	\$ 56,843
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,543	\$ 4,362	\$ 9,086	\$ 11,245
Disbursements	\$ 4,543	\$ 21,900	\$ 9,086	\$ 24,774
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 40,854	\$ 36,846	\$ 81,707	\$ 96,178
Disbursements	\$ 40,854	\$ 50,663	\$ 81,707	\$ 81,617
Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				\$ 70,456
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 45,594
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 118,675
Programs fund				\$ 76,668
Endowment fund				\$ 621,668
Total special funds				\$ 862,605



\$609 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of **\$609** was collected in February.

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.

Medicare cards

WARNING: Medicare, beginning in April and continuing for 12 months, will be sending new Medicare cards to current recipients. There are no special fees and no need to apply.

A recent scam has been reported involving calls or emails seeking personal information and added fees. Disregard these. The Medicare office isn't calling anyone about the new cards.



U. of Ozarks Chamber Singers here April 7-8

By Arnie Holtberg

Members of the Kirk who have heard or hosted the Chamber Singers from the University of the Ozarks know we are in for a terrific treat when this amazing group joins our worship services on Saturday, April 7, and Sunday, April 8.

Their director, Dr.

Jonathan Ledger, said the choir eagerly looks forward to its annual visit to the Kirk.

Dr. Ledger is in his second

year as assistant professor of music and choral director at the university. Bethany Qualls, an alumna of the university and piano instructor, accompanies the Chamber Singers.

This year the choir will share sacred selections from its spring tour which is entitled “Songs of the Sea.” At both of our services they will perform *Nearer My God to Thee*, *Wade in the Water*, and *It Is Well With My Soul*.

Last year the group spent a full week on tour for the first time in nearly a decade, making presentations at churches and schools in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

This year’s trip takes them to northwest Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

We are truly blessed this talented ensemble has chosen to share their musical gifts with us once again.

There is a sign-up sheet in the choir room for those wishing to host one or more students for Saturday evening as well as Sunday breakfast.

Arnie Holtberg is a member of the Communication Committee.



Dr. Jonathan Ledger



Bethany Qualls



Treble in the Village entertaining at the Top of the Rock scholarship concert at the Kirk.

Quartets raise \$805 for youth scholarships

We would like to thank the Kirk for providing the venue for the Top of the Rock Peggy Gram Scholarship Benefit. We received \$805 for the scholarship fund.

The program included quartets Roundelay, Changed 4 Good and Treble in the Village.

The quartets and other Top of the Rock members

joined together for several numbers directed by Top of the Rock director Kelly Causey.

All Sweet Adelines in the audience joined together for the final number *How We Sang Today* directed by Margaret Kresse, director of Crystal Chimes.

Thank you for supporting musicians of tomorrow!



The Roundelay (above) and Changed 4 Good quartets performing at the Kirk concert. (Robert Sonnen photos).



Kirk choir will be joined in April by special guests. (Robert Sonnen photo)

Celebration of Beautiful Music continues in April with special presentations

By Randy Toney

The Celebration of Beautiful Music, begun with Eastertide, continues throughout the spring season at the Kirk.

On April 6 and 7, the University of the Ozark's Choir will make its annual visit. Note the added information in the special article in this month's newsletter.

On April 15, we will welcome harpist Marci Hall to the Kirk's morning worship.



The sounds of the harp are not often heard live. It becomes even more special to hear it in morning worship. Marci will play solo harp pieces, accompanied by Donna

Toney on the piano. Marci will also join the choir in the morning's anthem.

Rounding out the spring Celebration of Beautiful Music, our choir will be accompanied May 13 by a string quartet.

Together they will perform an extraordinary setting of the Lord's Prayer. *Our Father* by Craig Courtney is very different from the typical Lord's Prayer. In this arrangement, each section is expressed in its own melodic, harmonic and textual language. You owe it to yourself to experience it.

The music ministry thanks the Kirk members for their generous support – through budgeted and designated funds – to host these guest musicians. We hope all of our musical offerings find a way into your heart during this spring season.

Randy Toney is the Kirk's Director of Music.

Ed Baldwin believes in hands-on approach when helping others



Ed Baldwin wears many hats in the community. (Robert Sonnen photo)

By Dotty Rector

Shortly after moving to Hot Springs Village in 2009, Ed Baldwin joined the Kirk and its Mission Committee. There he was recruited by Paul and Joyce Hayek to help at Samaritan Ministries, a men's homeless shelter.

In his career as an Air Force physician, Ed moved too often to do much volunteer work. Samaritan was an opportunity to give some real hands-on assistance.

He and two other couples prepared and served dinners at Samaritan Ministries, a men's rescue mission in central Hot Springs.

After a time, it became "a guy thing."

"Women are more particular," Ed said with a smile. "Men like to do it fast and straight forward. Don't measure and don't look back."

Doing hands-on work is very satisfying, Ed believes.

He and two other Kirk men commit three hours on the third Thursday of each month to prepare dinner, eat with the residents, and clean up afterwards.

Chuck and Jan Laggan, who had the vision to begin Samaritan Ministry, recently presented a Lenten program at the Kirk. There we learned the ministry shelters, feeds and educates up to 35 homeless men.

Ed, well known at the Kirk for his barbecuing activities at various functions, said he could use additional men to help with the monthly Thursday supper meals.



**The Kirk
in the
Community**

Ed also has served as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster children. After an intensive, week-long training session, he worked with his foster child for a year.

This can involve frequent trips to Juvenile Court and interaction with social workers, lawyers, psychologists and administrators in a complex legal and social-care system.

Ed said his training served him well on a third volunteer mission – the Vera Lloyd Home – where he currently serves on its board of directors.

Ed Baldwin is a story teller, and enjoys telling about his many experiences at these three agencies. It is obvious he gets pleasure from helping others.

You are an inspiration, Ed.

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

God and everyday life topic for spring lecture

By Lowell Gardner

“The Sacred is Now – God in Everyday Life, Even As We Continue Our Journey Home” will be the topic at the Kirk’s Spring Lecture Series on Wednesday, April 26, in Hoffius Hall.

The Rev. Georgia Senor, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville, will be our guest lecturer.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. with Pastor Senor’s lecture. At noon we’ll break to enjoy a box lunch prepared by our own Greenhorns. Coffee, ice tea and water are included in the \$5 lunch cost, which will be collected at the entrance to the hall.

After lunch, participants will discuss Pastor Senor’s talk with her. The program will conclude by 3 p.m.

Before her call in Bentonville in 2014, Pastor Senor was pastor for 10 years at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Ark. She is a board-certified clinical

chaplain, serving for several years as a chaplain at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville.

Pastor Senor received her Master of Divinity degree (summa cum laud) from Phillips Theological Seminary in 2003. She also holds a master’s degree in family studies from Syracuse University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oregon.

She is working on her doctorate degree in ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, with an emphasis on pastoral care.

Pastor Senor grew up in Portland, Ore. She is married to Dr. Thomas Senor, a philosophy professor and Director of Religious Studies at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. They have three grown children – Elisa, Katie and Graham – and a baby granddaughter, Abigail.

Make plans to attend this special lecture and invite a friend or two or more!

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



The Rev. Georgia Senor

PW Women will be taking a different tack this year

Presbyterian Women will be doing something different this year.

Instead of holding the customary Presbyterian Women Weekend, PW will present a Minute for Presbyterian Women.

At Sunday worship on April 22, PW Moderator Becky Wakefield will inform the congregation about some of the missions supported by the Kirk PW.

To further celebrate Presbyterian Women, a reception featuring a special cake and refreshments will be served after the service.

Join us for this special celebration.

Session: Stay vigilant

In response to recent incidents of violence in churches across the country, the Session has been studying the best course of action for the Kirk.

We asked Hot Springs Village Police Chief Ricky Middleton to do a safety assessment of our building and make recommendations.

Based on his input and our best judgement, Session has determined we will secure the east door near the office and the doors in Hoffius Hall just prior to the worship hour.

The main door to the sanctuary will remain unlocked and we will continue to extend the same warm welcome to those who come to worship.

As always, it is important for you to be vigilant and aware of anything out of the ordinary.

Books are more fun if you know the authors

To select a book to read can be a challenge. Libraries or book stores may appear a bit overwhelming.

How about reading something by an individual you actually know? Our own church library has books by three such persons.

Madelyn F. Young is a current non-resident member of the Kirk, having recently moved with her husband, Robin, to Franklin, Tenn. Among her many areas of service at this church was as long-time copy editor of the Kirk Voice newsletter. She was also one of its regular writers.

Views from an Empty Nest is a marvelous compilation of Madelyn’s award-winning fiction and non-fiction “tales of family loyalty and love, discord and intrigue as [Madelyn] poignantly reflects on a life well-lived.”

The author refers to it as “including what I consider a cross-section of my best work.”

The poet Judith Waller Carroll is a member of the Kirk and very recently Moderator of the Communication Committee. She admirably gave for three years as editor of our excellent newsletters.

Her most recent collection of, what she and others have referred to as “free-verse” poetry, reflects her



Carnegie Corner

By Lowell Gardner

joyous appreciation of life, nature, travel and family. Even the title of this collection, *What You Saw and Still Remember*, sets forth her unique insights into living a full, rich life.



Ed Baldwin retired from the United States Air Force in 2009 where he served as a flight surgeon. He and his wife, Becky, settled in Hot Springs Village, becoming valued members of Kirk. They have given great support to missions.

One of his novels, *The Other Pilot*, is a part of our library. It is an historic fiction of political and military intrigue.


All of these books are in our church library. Check them out.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.


What is Arkansas Pilgrimage really like?

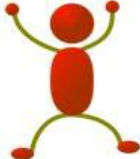
Travel to a wonderful camp!




Join a loving group of Christian Friends!




Enjoy lots of great food!



Listen to Inspiring talks by others!





Develop Christian Friendships!



Leave better equipped to serve our Risen Lord!

Contact: Martha Nielsen

www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org



Happy dates



Birthdays

April 1	Lois Dykstra	April 17	Lu Otto	April 23	Doris Simmons
	Joe Milligan	April 18	Michael Erickson	April 24	Ray Beal
April 2	Jeanne Kleinschmidt	April 20	Linda Smith		Cheryle Dean
April 4	Pat Kuntz		Bob Smith	April 25	Bill Bailey
April 8	Ron Lovett	April 21	Cal Sloma	April 26	Sheri Swan
	Tom Martick	April 22	Georgia Hill	April 28	Ken Poole
April 9	Judy Sonnenburg		Ruth Richards	April 29	Pat Hightower
April 14	Blair Stroud	April 23	Sandy Adams	April 30	Ruth Fox
April 16	Darlene Spiller		Jean Fisher		
	Marty Volkema		Claire Rhodes		

Anniversaries

April 3	Sandy and Jim Adams	25 years	April 15	Bev and Charles McFadden	12 years
April 4	Cindy and Frank Morgan	45 years			

Jackson House getting help from Food Basket

During April, the Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Jackson House.

They need canned meat, fish, vegetables, soups, stew, Spam, chili, pasta and pasta sauces, dry boxed dinner helpers for hamburger, chicken and tuna, macaroni and cheese, dry rice, beans, and milk, dry hot and cold cereals and canned milk and juices.

Tell us about your Warm & Fuzzy story

Have you experienced a "WARM AND FUZZY, that marvelous feeling when someone, often in total surprise, does something helpful or meaningful for you.

Tell us your story. We will publish them each month.

If this is a good idea and meets a need, submit yours to puffchop35@yahoo.com.

Coffee Closet open April 8

The PW Coffee closet will open Sunday, April 8, with a great selection of Fair Trade regular, decaf and flavored coffees. We also carry single-serve cups in three flavors, as well as many varieties of tea.

Call Carol Clark, 915-8497, for information about special orders.



Clarks thank all for outpouring of love

Dear Kirk Family:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the outpouring of love during Gary's long hospitalization and recovery.

The prayers, visitations, cards, meals and phone calls were so comforting and much appreciated.

Love and blessings to all of you.

Carol and Gary Clark

Mattinglys appreciate prayers, cards, food

A sincere thank you to those who prayed for both of us, sent cards and brought food while we were ill.

We appreciated it so very much!

Ruth and Burle Mattingly

It's Spring and Kirk golfers are ready to begin new season

By Jim Hess

The Kirk Sunday Golf Group's 2018 dinner meeting was attended by 32 members and guests. A short meeting to review our 2018 season was followed by a fine meal at Last Chance Restaurant.

We open our 2018 season at Cortez Golf Course on Sunday April 8. The first tee time is 1 p.m. After golf, we'll have dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Raffaella Rose Restaurant at Cortez.

Sign-up information to all members will be e-mailed. Save the day on your calendar!

If you are new to our Kirk, are looking for a friendly game of golf and would like to join our Kirk Golf Group, we welcome you. We are a group of single and couple golfers of all skill levels playing either 9 or 18 holes, your choice.



We play our Village courses the second Sunday of each month April through October. Dinner follows at one of our Village restaurants.

If you would like more information, please call me at 922-2326, or email me at jimobhess@suddenlink.net

Kirk member Jim Hess organizes the church's golf outings.

Kirk Staff

William B. Bailey – Senior Pastor
Sylvia Tate – Elder Leader, Informal Worship
Randy Toney – Director of Music
Donna Toney – Organist/Pianist
Janie Smith – Visitation Coordinator
Chris Taylor-Wilmoth – Secretary
Beverly Schaumburg – Business Administrator
Paul Stivitts – Sexton

A Voice in the Pines is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

It is produced and edited by the Kirk's Communication Committee – Lowell Gardner, Moderator.

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