

# A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXII, Issue 12, December 2016



## Come sing with us at Candlelight Service

Advent services began the weekend of Nov. 26 and 27 with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath and the singing of Advent hymns.

A new candle will be lit at each Saturday and Sunday worship service through Dec. 18 to remind us of the virtues of hope, peace, joy and love.

We will light the fifth candle – the Christ Candle – at our traditional Candlelight Service at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve. This will be followed by a Lessons and Carols Service.

This beautiful worship service will end with the congregation lighting candles in the darkened sanctuary and singing *Silent Night*.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to this special Christmas Eve service.

– Robert Sonnen photo (2014)

## 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

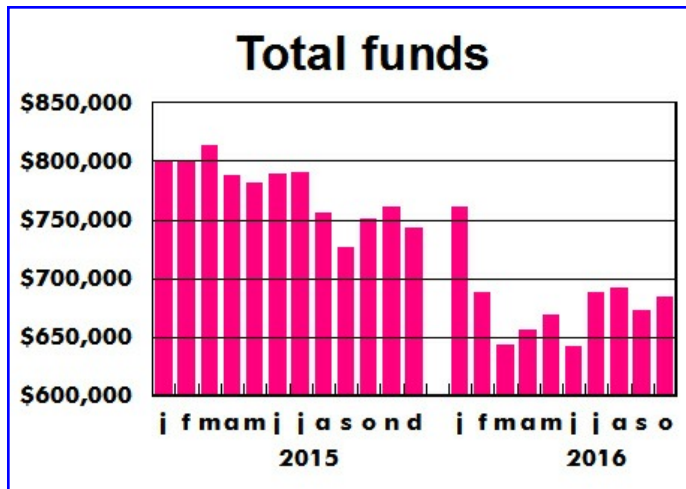


## ***It's time for us to pay attention to the places where God is busy doing his special work***

Unlike our secular calendars, which begin the year on Jan. 1, the Christian New Year began this year on Nov. 27 – the first day of Advent. As always, we will be lighting the traditional candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

The word Advent means “coming” and is a reminder that our faith calls us to live between our Lord’s two comings. We live between the ages, trusting in our Lord’s first advent and looking forward to his second at the end of times.

With Christians in every age, we remember our Lord’s first coming was in order to suffer and die. He came as Isaiah’s “suffering servant” in order to



### **Kirk in the Pines Financial Report Year to Date as of October 31, 2016**

Total:

Budget: \$339,391.67

Received: \$343,045.17

General Fund Budget: \$33,939.17

Receipts: \$39,796.69

Paid: \$26,128.89

Building Fund Budget: \$4,114.17

Receipts: \$4,597.50

Paid: \$4,415.26

Reserve & Designated Funds: \$133,246.40

Endowment as of Nov 6: \$500,579.30

Program Fund as of Nov 6: \$50,168.16

Ceiling Giving: \$47,118.00. Goal: \$137,631.31

Thank you to those who continue to give!

– **Sharon Gardner**, Moderator  
Finance Committee

### **The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey**



redeem us. This is what we celebrate at Christmas (the First Advent).

We also look forward to the future promise of our Lord’s return and the coming Kingdom (the Second Advent) when our Lord will come in glory.

Until then, we live in between these two advents, remembering the one and anticipating the other.

The church sets aside an entire season – four weeks of Advent – to remind us to wait attentively. This is a time to “pay attention” and look for all those places where God is at work in our lives and in our world.

More than simply celebrating the mystery of our Lord’s birth 2,000 years ago, Advent calls us to remember that an “adult Christ” – a “risen Lord” – is alive and present in our world and seeks to be born again in each of our hearts.

Emmanuel is still “God with us” – Christ is still coming into this world. This is a profound mystery indeed.

May the Lord bless each of us this Advent and help us to pay attention to those places where God is at work.

### **Kirk holiday hours**

The Wednesday morning Bible Study and the Thursday morning discussion group will take a break for the holidays Dec. 21 through Jan. 5.

Classes will resume Jan. 11 and 12.

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The Kirk office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Church security addressed at annual retreat

Church Statistics as of Nov. 14, 2016:  
Members – 363, family units – 240.

Loss of Affiliated Member: Neil Broscha, who died on Oct. 24, 2016. He will be interred at the Congregational Church, Hudson, South Dakota. Since he was an affiliated member, his loss will not count against the Kirk membership roll.

## Session Retreat, Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, 2016

Violence in the Church was a topic discussed by the Session at the retreat. There were several options reviewed.

How can we protect the congregation during services? At this time, it was suggested members be especially vigilant for anyone who seems to be unusually nervous. It was suggested the doors be locked after the service starts.

The Session believed this was not in the best interest of the congregation and would not be effective as a deterrent if someone intent on causing damage was already in the Kirk when the service started.

The Session also looked at the safety of the staff and others working in the church during the week. Plans are to lock the outside doors in Hoffius Hall in the afternoons. If the sexton is working, the doors will be unlocked.

When he leaves, they will be locked.

If you have a committee that will be meeting in Hoffius Hall and you do not have a key, get one at the office but return it after the meeting and make sure the doors are locked when you leave.

The main door to the sanctuary will be locked at all times during the day and night.

Procedures for making our church safe will continue to be evaluated. Video surveillance of the doors to identify anyone entering the church is being studied to ensure we have the best coverage possible. Better lighting around doors will enhance the coverage.

**The  
Clerk's  
Corner**

**Jerral Johnson**



The Session hopes these precautions will not make anyone's job more difficult, but we believe these steps will make our church a safer place to worship and work.

**The Village Big Band Concert** was an outstanding success. The sanctuary was filled, and many guests were seated in the narthex. The music was outstanding.

The Kirk was well represented in the program. Randy Toney performed one number, and Donna Toney accompanied many songs on the piano. A love offering of \$1,344 was collected and given to Village Churches Outreach to purchase shoes for needy children.

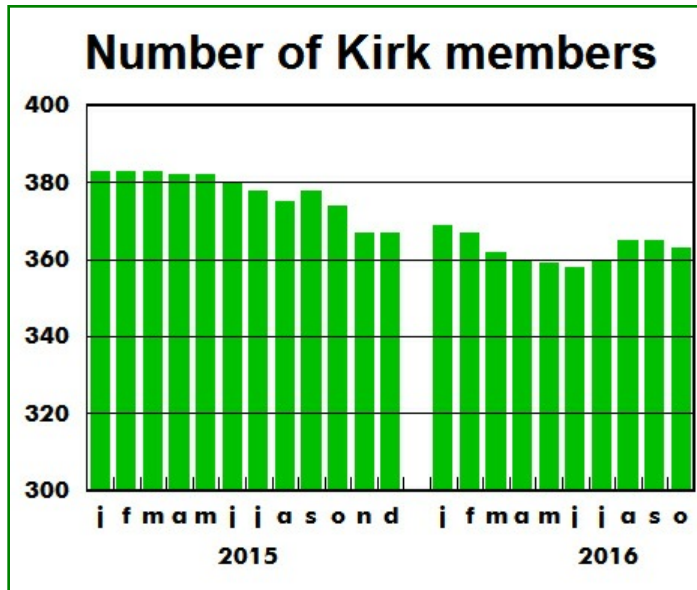
Jim Adams, Joyce Leeming, and others on the Member Outreach Committee and the Memorial Reception Committee are to be

congratulated for carrying out a well planned and executed event.

Members of the Village Big Band presented the concert as a "thank you" to the Kirk for allowing them to use Hoffius Hall for practice and to store some of their equipment.

## Installation and Ordination of New Session Members

On Dec. 18, new Session members will be installed during the Sunday service. All Kirk members should attend this important activity of the Kirk. Your support means a lot to the new elders as they begin their service to the Kirk.





Kirk members (from left) Sally Fink, Jamie Federick, Jean Fisher and Joyce Leeming gathering some of the more than 250 gifts which will be the only ones received this Christmas by residents of Small Group Therapy. *(Rick Federick photo)*

## **Elves from the Kirk make Christmas merry for more than 80 adults with mental illness**

Thanks to a band of elves headed by Kirk member Joyce Leeming, residents of Small Group Therapy in Hot Springs will have a merry Christmas.

Small Group Therapy (SGT) is a non-profit residential treatment center in Hot Springs for 80-85 adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Ages range from 21 into their 70s. Most residents are indigent. Many do not have family to provide gifts or to visit during the holidays.

“This is the only gift the majority of them receive,” said Joyce.

The elves are members of Friends of Small Group Therapy who volunteer each year to shop for and wrap gifts of clothing, toiletries and other necessities the residents cannot afford.



**The Kirk  
in the  
Community**

Each fall, Debbie Crone, administrator of the Day Treatment Center, helps the clients prepare a holiday wish list, something they look forward to doing all year.

Then Joyce and her elves get busy shopping and wrapping. A dozen Kirk members are regular



← shoppers and wrappers and more join in as their schedules allow.

“This massive project would not be possible without them!” Joyce said.

Joyce, whose son, Lewis, is a resident of SGT, began Friends of Small Group Therapy in 2001 to help raise money for non-program items, such as gifts for the clients at Christmas. Individual donations allowed spending \$5 on a small gift to each client.

The group also received a grant of \$1,000 from Hot Springs Village Community Foundation to help with a dental health start-up program.

In 2003, Friends of SGT, three members strong, used email chains to solicit furniture and kitchen needs for 12 new HUD apartments, including Christmas trees and door wreaths.

The following year, the group of elves grew to six, one of whom was responsible for a \$20,000 grant from the Hubbard Foundation for clients’ dental care.

Thanks to donations from individuals, businesses and service clubs, the amount raised for each client’s Christmas gift has grown to \$25.

Fundraising efforts haven’t stopped there. Thanks to donations from service clubs and churches, three defibrillator machines were purchased for SGT’s day-treatment center and the two 24/7 residential-care facilities.

In 2012, Friends of Small Group Therapy received a Community Service Award from the Mental Health Council of Arkansas for raising over \$123,000 for SGT.

Like other fund-raising organizations, Friends of SGT has seen a decrease in donations in recent years.

“Since 2008, donations have dropped over 50 percent,” said Joyce. Almost all of the contributions come from Hot Springs Village, and a large percentage comes from Kirk members, Kirk Mission and Kirk PW.

“We are actively seeking more Friends in Hot Springs and surrounding areas.”

– *Judy Carroll*

*Please let us know of community work in which you or someone you know is involved so we can tell your story. Contact us at [kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net).*



Christmas Elves, including many from the Kirk, posing with their handiwork after a recent day spent wrapping gifts for 80 residents of Small Group Therapy.



## ***Get in holiday spirit on Dec. 7 at Christmas Gathering***

The Fellowship Committee will host a Christmas Gathering for the Kirk at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in Hoffius Hall. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share, and we'll sing Christmas carols with Treble in the Village.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend, and we'll all enjoy getting in the Christmas Spirit.

– *Norma Stevens*, Moderator  
Fellowship Committee

Treble in the Village will sing at the Kirk's Christmas Gathering.

## **Sign up for the next Dinner for Six program**

It's time to sign up for Dinners for Six for the first four months of 2017.

This is a wonderful way for newer members of the Kirk to become immersed in the life of the congregation. You'll spend three quality evenings with other Kirk members in conversations in homes.

During the first four months, each couple, or two singles, will host the others on a schedule that you'll make yourselves. The meal doesn't have to be grandiose – fellowship is the point of the evening

These special evenings won't work if only newer members sign up. The object is to have newer members dine with some of the more experienced (older?) members.

This is a two-way street, and the older members get to know the newer



members too. We've been doing this for years, and every evening provides new insight into the life of our congregation.

Sign-up sheets will be in the bulletins the first two Sundays in December. For more information, contact Barbara or Tony Booth at 922-6475 or [tb4booth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tb4booth@sbcglobal.net)

Remember the old adage: Make New Friends but Keep the Old; Some are Silver and the Others are Gold.

– *Tony and Barbara Booth*



## ***Items found***

**Found:** Gold bangle bracelet.  
Clip-on sunglasses.

Stop by the Kirk office to claim.

## Village Big Band draws standing-room-only crowd to hear toe-tapping celebration

The Kirk sanctuary was standing room only as the Village Big Band presented “Songs of Inspiration and Patriotism with a Beat” on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23.

Made up of Hot Springs Village residents, the band replicates the instrumentation of the prominent jazz/dance bands of the 1930s-60s, such as Glen Miller, Benny Goodman and Count Basie. Directed by Bill Morgan, the band has performed at most Village venues as well as the Arlington Hotel and Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs.

Augmented by the Kirk's own Donna Toney on piano and Randy Toney as guest vocalist, the program opened with *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* sung by the audience and backed up by the band.

Jazz spirituals *Jericho* and *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* had the audience nodding with the beat, and inspiring standards *You Raise Me Up* and *I'll Fly Away* triggered enthusiastic applause.

After *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *God Bless the U.S.A.* had the audience on its feet, the crowd surged to the front as *When the Saints Go Marching In* closed the show.

Put in a generous mood by the show, the audience dropped \$1,344 into the offering baskets for the benefit of Village Churches Outreach.

This local charity was formed more than 20 years ago to help with the all-too-common occurrence of fire destroying the homes of our rural neighbors in Jessieville, Fountain Lake and Mountain Pine.

Later, a food pantry was added, then holiday baskets for people down on their luck, and a shoe ministry providing free shoes for needy children. The Kirk Mission Committee has supported Village Churches Outreach for many years.

Rolling into Hoffius Hall for cookies and coffee and to meet the musicians, many in the happy crowd were already planning for a repeat performance next year.

– Ed Baldwin

## ***PW Women to celebrate on Dec. 12***

Presbyterian Women and guests will celebrate the holidays at our annual PW Christmas Gathering on Monday, Dec. 12. All women in the Kirk are encouraged to join us. Come and bring a friend!

Worship begins in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the Greenhorns. Special holiday entertainment will wrap up our time of celebration.

Cost of the lunch is \$9 (payable at the door), and reservations are due by Dec. 4. Call your Circle Leader or Norma Stevens (915-4048) for reservations or cancellations.

On Dec. 5, the PW Coordinating Team will be decorating the Christmas tree in Hoffius Hall.

– **Christine Hoagland**, Moderator  
Kirk Presbyterian Women



**MAY YOUR  
CHRISTMAS**

**BE A CELEBRATION**

**OF GOD'S LOVE!**

**Your Kirk Staff**

*Bill Bailey, Sylvia Tate, Janie Smith,*

*Beverly Schaumburg, Joyce Leeming,*

*Randy Toney, Donna Toney, Paul Stivitts*

# Bring Joy to Our Sanctuary



Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas with a beautiful poinsettia. Order one or more plants in memory or honor of a loved one.

The cost is only \$7 this year, but be sure to get your order form in by Dec. 4. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletin or in the Kirk office.

Thank you for helping us decorate the Kirk to the Glory of God this Christmas.

## **Volunteers needed to open, close our church**

Do you like to drink coffee and meditate on Sunday mornings? Are you looking for another way to serve the Kirk? If you answered yes to those questions, then I have a deal for you.

Come a little early on Sunday to open the church and make the coffee. After those tasks are completed, then have a cup (and maybe a cookie if no one is looking) and get ready for one of Pastor Bill's inspiring sermons.

Opening procedures take about 15-20 minutes and need to be done by 8:45 a.m. Closing takes about 10 minutes. Normally, those who open are scheduled six times a year and can trade days if they have conflicts.

Please call me at 922-9344 or 922-9346 to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Openings are limited, so don't delay.

– *Darell Fisher*

## ***\$727 for Mission campaign***

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of \$727 was collected in October.

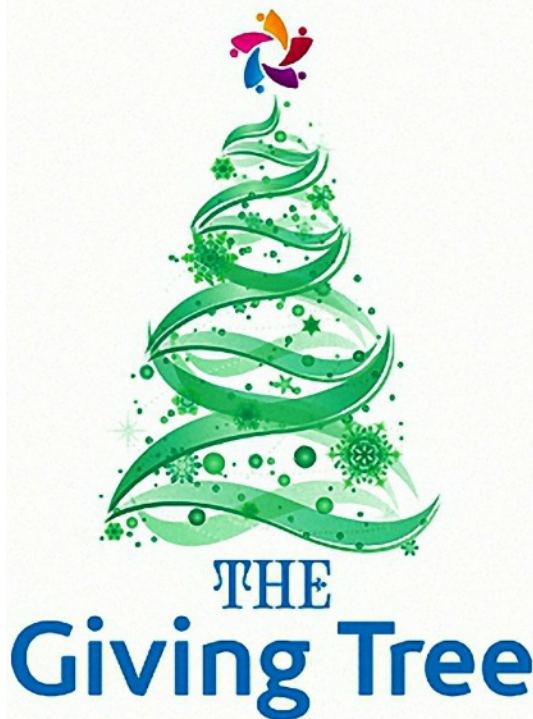
If you wish to give more than a dollar, please use the envelopes in the pew racks. We are always grateful for your generous gifts and prayers.

## **Service Tree on vacation**

The Kirk Service Tree usually found in the narthex has been temporarily dismantled to make room for the Christmas Giving Tree and all the wonderful gifts the Mission Committee delivers each Christmas to local boys and girls.

The Service Tree will return in January with a fresh crop of requests from needs providers, including Jessieville and Fountain Lake School Districts, Teen Challenge, and Starting Over Ministries. Thank you for supporting this mission so generously.





## ***Take a tag and make a child's Christmas***

Take a tag off the Giving Tree in the narthex and help brighten Christmas for boys and girls at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home, Mountain Pine Head Start and North Garland County Head Start.

Place your wrapped gift under the tree by Dec. 11, and elves from the Mission Committee will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

Tags on the tree list the age, sizes and other information to help you shop for the perfect gift to put a big smile on a lucky child's face. Contact Carol Clark at 915-8497 for more information.

Thank you for sharing your Christmas spirit with boys and girls who might otherwise not receive a gift this year.

## ***Pledge \$\$ due Dec. 31***

Contributions for your 2016 pledge must be received in the office by Dec. 31 in order to be credited on your 2016 contribution statement.

This is necessary so we can process the year-end financial and contribution report and close out the year.

Any money received after this date will be reflected on your 2017 statement. Thank you

– **Beverly Schaumburg**  
Kirk Business Administrator



## **Thanksgiving dinner was again a success**

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and to members of the Kirk who made the Thanksgiving Dinner a success once again.

Serving as moderator of the Fellowship Committee the last three years has been a challenge and a blessing all at the same time. I would like to thank the Fellowship Committee for their commitment to the Kirk and for their love and support of me as moderator.

Blessing and prayers to Vicki Rosenquist as she becomes the new Moderator of Fellowship.

– **Norma Stevens**, Moderator  
Fellowship Committee

## **Kirk family thanked**

My thanks to the wonderful Kirk family for all the prayers, encouraging cards and visits while I was ill and recovering.

A big thank you also goes to Bill Bailey for the very many visits and prayers during that long time. My children also send their thanks for the great deal of support Bill gave them throughout my three months of crisis.

– **Ann Walters**

## ***Christine Hoagland feels the strength of God and friends***

I wish to thank you all for the cheerful cards, loving phone calls, and for all of your prayers. I know God is in charge and that he loves me. I can feel his strength and am so very grateful for him and for all of you.

May God bless each of you.

– **Christine Hoagland**



The 1984 film *Amadeus* about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (played by Tom Hulce, above) is one of many DVDs available in the Kirk library.

## ***Inspirational film entertainment can be checked out from the Kirk's lending library***

Dawn arrives late this time of year in the Danube River Valley. It is nearing mid-morning by the time advancing rays of the autumn sun slip over the Black Forest-capped foothills of the Carpathian Mountain Range.

They brighten and warm the swift-flowing waters of the legendary Danube River. This current navigational pathway to Vienna, Austria, is skillfully controlled by a masterfully engineered series of locks and dams.

Chances are the ongoing parade of renowned composers and performers of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries would have traveled to this "City of Music" by carriage or stagecoach roads. One such celebrity was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. His gifted and tortured life is portrayed in the movie *Amadeus*, a DVD which is part of our church library.

Another film to enhance a quiet evening is *The Shawshank Redemption*, an engrossing, superbly acted yarn starring Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins. The indomitable will of Andy Dufresne [Robbins], unjustly convicted of murder, demonstrates a spirit of hope and change that gains the friendship of "Red" Redding [Freeman], a "lifer." Ultimately, it alters the entire prison.

Perhaps you may be drawn to Geraldine Page's

### **Carnegie Corner** *By Lowell Gardner*

*The Trip to Bountiful*, an aging lady's courageous and determined pursuit "home" in more ways than one.

Maybe *Leap of Faith* will stimulate your imagination as the "flimflam man" Jonas Nightingale [Steve Martin] seeks to sell salvation for a donation until confronted by a genuine miracle.

Or perhaps the adaptation of Jane Austin's classic *Pride and Prejudice*, a story about the complexity of human relationships, courtship and love, will be what you'd like.

These films and more are available in our own church library. Check it out and check one out.

### **Is your email address up to date?**

Important notices from the Kirk are sent by email. Check your email address in the membership directory so you don't miss a thing.

Current directories are available outside the Kirk office and in the narthex.



# Happy dates



## ***Birthdays:***

Dec. 1	Ruth Hamilton	Dec. 10	Gloria Reid	Dec. 20	Madelyn Young
	Gary Rector	Dec. 11	Adair Atkinson	Dec. 21	Eleanor Hadley
Dec. 2	Martha Copeland		Christine Hoagland	Dec. 22	Peggy Sowers
Dec. 5	Jan Waters	Dec. 12	Patricia Mershon	Dec. 23	Molly Baldwin
Dec. 7	Gary Baldwin	Dec. 13	Pat Mull	Dec. 24	Cathy Clowers
	Daryl Henry	Dec. 14	Jack Bullard	Dec. 28	Robert Sonnen
Dec. 8	Wendy Gage	Dec. 15	Pat Rea		Becky Wakefield
Dec. 9	Virginia Boyd		Della Reimers	Dec. 30	Barb Kalsbeek
	Carolyn Kane	Dec. 18	Arnie Holtberg		Ellen Marshall
	Fran Stroud		Marilyn Rabideau		
Dec. 10	Carol Case		Mary Wright		

## ***Anniversaries:***

Dec. 1	Sissy and David Wilson	32 years	Dec. 19	Mary and Ray Beal	63 years
Dec. 2	Jean and Keith Brown	66 years		Arnie and Jan Holtberg	46 years
Dec. 3	Barbara and Jerry Guenther-McAnarney	5 years	Dec. 23	Lorraine and Bob Berry	39 years
Dec. 5	Gail and David Salmen	46 years		Carol and Gary Clark	49 years
Dec. 17	Debbie and Jim Cordell	33 years	Dec. 28	Sally and Harry Lester	22 years
			Dec. 29	Becky and Harry Wakefield	44 years

# ***Sing along!***

## **Everyone invited to join on Christmas Eve**

Won't you join fellow Christians on Christmas Eve to sing favorite Christmas carols?

At worship services leading up to Christmas, we sing Advent hymns in preparation for the big event, the birth of our Savior.

Then, on the eve of his birth, we will joyfully sing the old familiar carols.

The traditional candlelight service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve. The remaining Advent candle – the Christ candle – will be lit, and we will once again hear the familiar birth story read from scripture and sing it out in song.

The choir will lead the singing and also sing several anthems. An ensemble will sing, and our



**Choir  
Notes  
Dotty Rector**

organist will play a solo. It will be a beautiful, joyous event of celebration.

How can one keep from bursting out in song to celebrate our Savior's birth!

## ***PW Coffee Closet open three Sundays***

The PW Coffee Closet will be open Dec. 4, 11 and 18 after the Sunday worship service to make it easy for you to shop for all the coffee and tea lovers on your list.

## **Potter's Clay named**

The Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Potter's Clay in December.

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.



If you can't bring food to the Kirk, you can leave an offering in the pew envelopes marked "Food Basket" for a monetary gift.

The Coffee Closet has custom-made gifts of the finest Fair Trade coffees and teas in both decaf and caffeinated blends, beautifully wrapped and ready for giving.

Don't run from store to store. Shop the easy way – stop by the PW Coffee Closet on the first three Sundays in December.

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



## ***Please wear name tag***

Let's wear our name tags to each service. We ask our visitors to wear one, and we should do as much for them. Thank you.

## **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  
**Joyce Leeming** – 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 – Judy Carroll, Moderator. Its email address is: [kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net)



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines  
 275 Asturias Drive,  
 Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
 Phone: 501-922-1333 Fax: 922-6005  
 Email: [kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.kirkinthepines.org](http://www.kirkinthepines.org)