

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIII, Issue 12, December 2017

Join us for Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve



Kirk Candlelight Service last year. (Robert Sonnen photo)

The 2017 Advent Season will end at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, with the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The fifth and final advent candle will be lit, acknowledging God's great gift of gracious redemption, his own Son.

The service will feature prophetic passages from the Old Testament and added New Testament readings from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The readings will be interspersed with appropriate advent carols.

The Kirk Choir will provide an uplifting rendition of *We Shall Light A Thousand Candles* by David Rasbach, a spirited canon proclaiming the joy at turning darkness into light. They may also sing *O Shepherds, Aren't You Happy* by Hal Hopson.

A double mixed quartet will round out the musical portion of the evening with the beautiful *Do You Hear What I Hear?* by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne.

The service will conclude with candlelight passed from one pew neighbor to another in marvelous symbolism of passing the Peace of Christ. This is accompanied by the singing of the beloved Christmas carol *Silent Night*.

Top off your advent celebration at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines and invite a friend. Be clearly and joyously reminded that "God so loved" us all.

—Lowell Gardner

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



New Year coming sooner than you think

Happy New Year!

This may seem a little early, but it is a reminder that our new church year begins Dec. 3. Unlike our secular calendars which begin Jan. 1, the liturgical church calendar begins with the season of Advent, which means “coming.”

The four weeks of Advent call us to prepare our hearts for God’s coming – both as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth on that first Christmas and as we look for Christ’s coming in our world today.

Christmas certainly celebrates one of the great mysteries of our faith. As the gospel writer John puts it: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

The incarnation of God’s Son “came down from heaven,” as the Nicene Creed puts it. God’s Son entering the world as an infant born to a poor peasant couple,

The Pastor’s Corner *Bill Bailey*



wrapped in “swaddling clothes” and “laid in a manger” – this is a profound mystery indeed!

But deeper still is the promise that God continues to come into our world.

As people of faith, we believe Christ is alive still and seeks to be born again and dwell within each of our hearts. This is the mystery of Christmas – Emmanuel, “God with us.”

Advent is the season of the church set aside to remind us this miracle continues, even today.

We believe God is still coming into our world and lives. We believe God is still at work redeeming and saving us even now.

This is part of what we celebrate in Advent – not just singing Christmas carols, but singing Advent hymns which call us to discern God’s advent in the present.

May the Lord bless and keep you as we begin a new year.

Holiday schedule

The Wednesday morning Bible Study and the Thursday morning discussion group will take a break for the holidays between Dec. 20 through Jan. 4. Classes will resume Jan. 10 and 11.

The Kirk office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We really need your talent and ideas

We need your help.

We’ve heard from many of you that you love reading the Kirk newsletter for its wonderful photos and newsy, interesting articles. We appreciate your kind comments, but it’s not always easy coming up with new stories – or finding people to write them.

That’s where you come in.

If you like to write, we’d love to have you write for us. Let us know if you’re interested in writing about one of our upcoming events or if you have an idea of something else going on at the Kirk.



If you’re handy with a camera, send us your photos of the Memorial Garden or a Kirk event you attended.

Maybe you’re a grammar guru or good at spotting typos. We could use your help editing articles.

If you’d like to join the Communication Committee, even better. We need good idea people who are interested in what the Kirk is doing.

We know how busy you are, so we’re asking for whatever you’re willing to contribute.

It’s all of you with your wide array of talents that makes the Kirk such a wonderful place.

Please contact me at kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net if you’d like to share your talent with the readers of *Voice in the Pines*.

– **Judy Carroll**, Moderator
Communication Committee

Many items discussed at Session's retreat

Deaths of Members

We are saddened by the deaths of two long-time, faithful members of the Kirk:

- Earle William (Bill) Stanley died Oct. 30.

Memorial services were Nov. 4 at the Kirk.

- June Stevens died Nov. 19. Memorial services were Nov. 17 at the Kirk.

Member Requesting to have her Name removed from the Church Roll

Theresa Nottrott is now a member of a Methodist Church in Illinois.

Former Members Requesting Certificates of Transfer

- Cora Jane Pope is moving her membership to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Rd., Atlanta, GA 30327
- Marylyn Rabideau is moving her membership to Santa Fe Presbyterian Church, Edmond, Okla.

Member Who Moved

Ardys Walter (Ms. Jewell Jackson) has moved to Leisure Manor, 68453 Stoecker Lane, Richmond, MI 48062

Church Statistics as of Nov. 15, 2017:

Members – 336 Family Units – 230

Loss of Family Member

It is with sorrow I announce Mr. Gerald Bingham, husband of Sherry Bingham, passed away Nov. 12, 2017. Mr. Bingham was a member of the Catholic Church. He was a long-time fireman in Chicago. His service will be in Chicago at later date.

Session Retreat

The Session held its annual retreat in Ferncliff on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. A number of items were discussed:

Church safety – The Arkansas Legislature recently passed two laws on church safety. They were discussed in detail by the Session. The Session will continue to discuss this very important and complicated subject.

Loss of Session Member – The Session received the resignation of Charles Reece. Charles has done an excellent job as moderator of the Finance Committee. He and Betty will be moving to Tupelo, Miss. Charles was always there to help with Session business.

Improve Lighting in Back Parking Lot – Tom Hayek, moderator for the Grounds and Memorial

The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



Committee, has been working to get additional lighting in the back (east) parking lot. The Session approved money to cover the cost of a light on the northwest corner of the lot. Plans are to have it in place by the end of the year.

All Kirk Dinner – The Fellowship Committee, led by Vicki Rosenquist, is making plans for the All Kirk Dinner on Jan. 29 to recognize members who joined the Kirk in 2017, as well as groups that do so much to make the Kirk a successful and friendly church. Sign-up will begin the first Saturday and Sunday in January.

Messiah – Thanks to Donna and Randy Toney for an excellent job of discussing the *Messiah* in a four-part program in October and November. A big thanks also goes to Pat Kuntz and the Education Committee.

These are only a few of the things discussed at the retreat. This next year will be an exciting year for the Kirk. We have excellent Session members who have a lot of vision and desire to see the Kirk move forward. I encourage everyone to jump on board.

Contributions due by end of the year

Contributions for your 2017 pledge must be received in the office by Dec. 31 in order to be credited on your 2017 contribution statement.

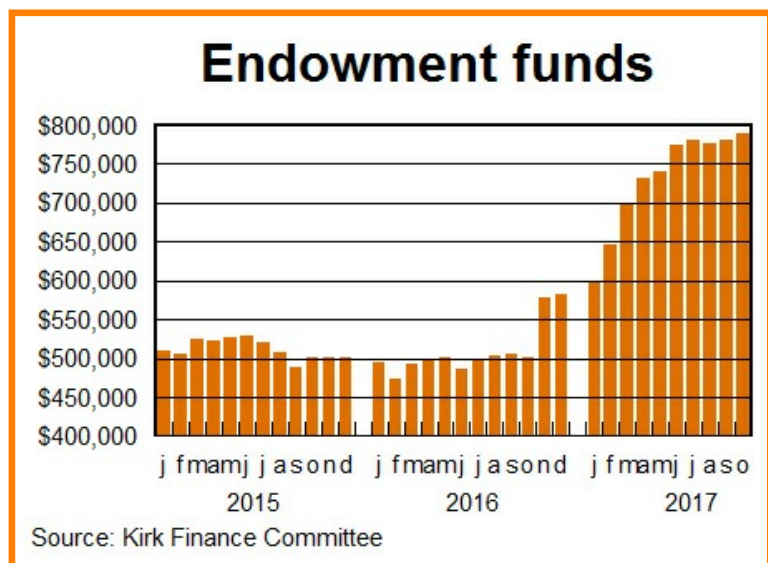
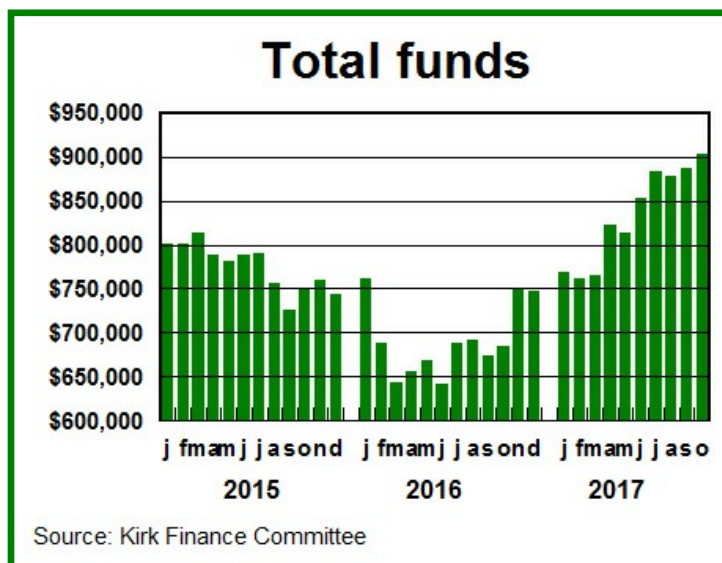
This is necessary so we can process the year-end financial and contribution report and close out the year. Any money received after this date will be reflected on your 2018 statement. Thank you.

– **Beverly Schaumburg**
Kirk Business Administrator

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of October 31, 2017

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 35,755	\$ 38,769	\$ 357,547	\$ 355,219
Disbursements	\$ 35,755	\$ 38,854	\$ 357,547	\$ 299,830
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,148	\$ 4,064	\$ 41,483	\$ 58,811
Disbursements	\$ 4,148	\$ 1,775	\$ 41,483	\$ 51,818
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 39,903	\$ 42,833	\$ 399,030	\$ 414,030
Disbursements	\$ 39,903	\$ 40,629	\$ 399,030	\$ 351,648
Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				\$ 112,952
Special funds:				
Memorial fund (new)				\$ 40,157
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 109,353
Programs fund				\$ 70,299
Endowment fund				\$ 569,397
Total special funds				\$ 789,206



\$887 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 **\$887** 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.

Help decorate the Kirk

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 \$8 for each plant. Be sure to get your order form in by Dec. 10. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletin.

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

—Priscilla Hayek

Pondering Mary's heart at special informal service on Dec. 16

Worshippers will be transported over 2,000 years to the tiny Israeli village of Nazareth at the informal service at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, in Hoffius Hall.

A young maiden betrothed to a local craftsman receives the announcement she is to be the mother of the promised messiah.

This is all made possible as Elder Leader Sylvia Tate presents the dramatic reading *Pondering the Heart of Mary*.

The monologue portrays Mary's extraordinarily challenging experience receiving the call, living out the reality of parenting this amazing child to manhood and

witnessing his destiny unfold.

The women's quartet Treble in the Village will close out the event with the musical question *Mary, Did You Know?*

Make this a part of your Advent celebration.

– **Lowell Gardner**



Treble in the Village members Fran Stroud, Kay Crews, Sharon Gardner and Patty Van Cleve

Christmas song and food at Dec. 13 gathering

The Fellowship Committee will host a Christmas Gathering for the Kirk at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 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.

– **Vicki Rosenquist**,
Moderator Fellowship Committee



New members Linda and Ted Hommema. (Robert Sonnen photo)

Hommemas are active new Kirk members

Ted and Linda Hommema are new members of the Kirk. They moved here 13 years ago from Rockford, Ill.

If you visit them, be sure to ask to see Ted's interesting lamp. This lamp is made from a fuel control Ted designed as an engineer for an aircraft manufacturing company. The lamp was given to him when he retired in 2004.

Interestingly, he worked for the same firm from age 14 until he retired. He spent part of his career in England.

Ted likes tennis and woodworking. He built several pieces of furniture for their home. He plays "a little bit" of golf.

Linda was raised Presbyterian. She taught school for a career, taking 16 years off to raise their children. Linda plays golf with the Lady Duffers. She has played hand bells for 32 years, playing currently with the Village Carillons.

New members

She likes to knit, making premature baby caps, which she gives to hospitals. She has made close to 400 of the tiny caps. She belongs to a PEO chapter and has sung in choirs for 32 years. She says she wants to rest from singing, perhaps until early next year.

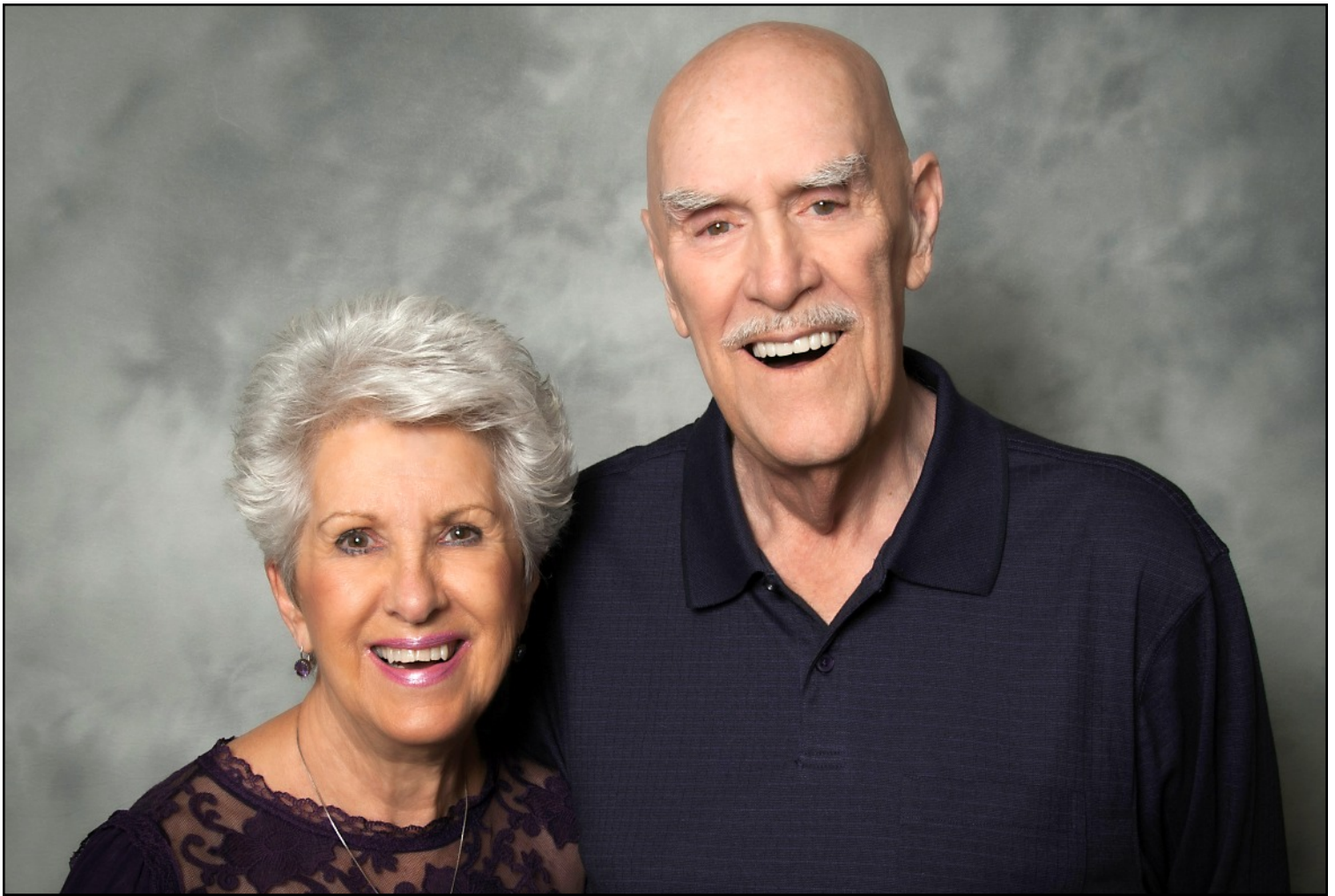
Ted and Linda have been married for 44 years and have three adult sons.

Son Scott is in Lagos, Nigeria, working as an engineer for Exxon Mobil. His home is in Spring, Tex.

Eric lives in Roscoe, Ill., working as a biochemist. He has two sons.

Kevin lives in Columbus, Ohio. He is an engineer with two daughters.

Continued on page 7



Gay and Art Crone are two of the Kirk's new members. *(Robert Sonnen photo)*

Two new members have roots in Texas

New members Art and Gay Crone retired and moved to Hot Springs Village in 2002 from Ft. Worth, Texas.

Born in Illinois, they became Texans in 1980 and opened The King's Boot Barn. After 10 years, they closed the store, and Art pursued a limo business for the next 12 years.

If you want to get to know Art, just ask him about some of his well-known celebrity clients.

Gay, a certified optometric assistant, worked at Deluxe Check Printers in Dallas.

Art and Gay have been married for 35 years and are

Things going well

Continued from page 6

Both Hommemas say things are “going well” for them and their children. They hope it will continue. We hope so too, Ted and Linda. We hope your involvement with the Kirk will play a big part in that scenario.

– Dotty Rector

New members

blessed with two sons, three daughters, five granddaughters and a great grandson.

Due to health problems, Art is unable to pursue his favorite outdoor activities but enjoys his dog, Buddy, and his tablet.

In their early retirement to the Village, Gay worked at Bank of America for four years and is working part time now.

Art and Gay were searching for a church home and attended several churches in the Village.

The Crones were led to the Village by life-long Illinois friends, Bill and JoAnne Rich. The passing of their friend, Bill, led them to Presbyterian Kirk of the Pines.

“We are so happy to be home,” says Gay.

We welcome you to our Kirk family!

– Jamie Federick

Music lovers enjoy *Messiah* lessons

Approximately 50 music enthusiasts from the Kirk and the community attended a four-week course in October and November on Handel's *Messiah* taught by the Kirk's musical duo, Donna and Randy Toney.

The Toneys, who estimate they've sung in complete *Messiah* performances about 20 times, selected *Messiah* because "it's been very important to us over the years," said Donna.

"Both of us have sung various solo parts, but mostly we've participated as choral members," she explained.

"We heard about Kerygma's study of *Messiah* at a previous church, and we wanted to participate

and offer it as part of the Education and Music Ministry's work here at the Kirk."

Donna started piano lessons in third grade and has enjoyed singing in church and school choirs through college, work and adulthood. She served as children's choir co-ordinator, pianist, organist and youth choir director at churches in Baton Rouge, La., Richmond, Va., and taught piano at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge and in her home studio.

Randy began singing in school



Donna and Randy Toney taught a four-week course on Handel's *Messiah*.

and church choirs in ninth grade and studied piano from fourth grade through college. He completed a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at LSU, then wanted to earn a living, so went back for a master's in computer science. During college he enjoyed many opportunities to sing in choirs, operas, and musicals.

The Toneys became members of the Kirk in January 2015. Donna accepted the position of organist/pianist in May 2016 and Randy became Kirk music director that October.

We are blessed to have the Toneys in our church.

—Text and photo
by Rick Federick

Messiah tops on Facebook

It's always interesting to see which Facebook posts are seen the most.

The clear recent winner in the last month was the series of classes on the Advent portion of Handel's *Messiah*, led by Donna and Randy Toney. 627 people saw the posting. That's because Donna and Randy

"shared" it. They have a *large* Facebook following!

Next was the post about the Fellowship Committee's cookout in Hoffius Hall to celebrate fall. 337 people saw the 47 photos about that event. By the way, the food was great.

—Ralph Greene



Merry Christmas

Your Kirk Staff

Bill Bailey, Sylvia Tate, Randy Toney, Donna Toney, Janie Smith, Beverly Schaumburg, Chris Taylor-Wilmoth, Paul Stivitts

Ouachita Children's Center will also benefit from this year's Christmas Giving Tree

Each December, there is a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the narthex with tags containing names of boys and girls who need a little extra Christmas cheer.

This year the Mission Committee is adding Ouachita Children's Center to the list of recipients, which also includes Vera Lloyd Children's Center and Mountain Pine Head Start.

Also new this year, both Vera Lloyd and Ouachita Children's Center have requested gift cards only. Suggestions are: Walmart, Old Navy, Hibbett Sports, Dillard's, McDonalds and Subway.

Tags on the tree for the Mountain Pine Head Start children have details about the age, sizes and other information to help you find the perfect gift to put a big smile on a child's face.

Place your wrapped gift or gift cards under the tree by Dec. 10, and elves from the Mission Committee will deliver them in time for Christmas.

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

Please contact Carol Clark at 915-8497 for more information.



Giving Tree



PW to celebrate holidays on Dec. 11

Presbyterian Women and guests will celebrate the holidays at our annual PW Christmas Gathering on Monday, Dec. 11.

Worship will begin at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary with Pastor Bailey. A special luncheon prepared by the Greenhorns will follow. Entertainment will be the talented vocalists Treble in the Village.

Please bring two food items we will use to assemble small Christmas baskets for our shut-ins. Homemade goodies are fine to bring.

Call Norma Stevens at 915-8048 by Dec. 3 to make your lunch reservation. The cost is \$8 and will be collected at the door.

All women are invited to come and share our joy of Christ's birth.

– *Becky Wakefield,*
PW Moderator

PW Coffee Closet has holiday gifts for you

The PW Coffee Closet will be open Dec. 3, 10 and 17 after the Sunday worship service to make it easy for you to shop for all the coffee and tea lovers on your list.

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.



Old St. Nick has been around for a long time

It is my considered opinion that Santa Claus, in some circles, gets a bad rap. My position may not be totally objective since my wife and I portrayed Mr. and Mrs. Claus for 16 years in the frozen tundra of Minnesota. Let me explain anyway, and you be the judge.

The Greek New Testament and the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament) use the word “hagiazō” to designate something “set aside” or “set apart” by or for God.

When referring to *someone* in this manner, it is often translated “saint.” Specific branches of the Christian church apply it as an office or title for one exemplary in Christian good works.

Nicholas was born around 280 AD near Myra, in present day Turkey. Later, as a monk, he became highly acclaimed for his piety and generosity.

As the story goes, he gave away all his wealth traveling the countryside helping the poor. One report records that he established dowries for three poor sisters to avoid their being sold into slavery or prostitution.

He died on Dec. 6. Even into the Protestant Reformation, the then “St. Nicholas” was held in high esteem all across Europe, especially in Holland.

In the Dutch language St. Nicholas becomes *Sint-Nicolaas*, later shortened to *Sinterklaas*.



Carnegie Corner By Lowell Gardner

By the 1800s, the Dutch settlers in New York were acknowledging the date of his death.

In 1804, the N.Y. Historical Society displayed a carving of St. Nick with a background of toys and fruit-filled stockings hanging on the fireplace mantel.

Washington Irving added to this image in his 1809

History of New York, where St. Nicholas was patron saint.

The poem *An Account of the Visit of St Nicholas* was penned in 1822 by Clement Clark Moore, an Episcopal minister, for his three daughters. This filled in the details of physical appearance, attire and conveyance.

The year 1939 brought Montgomery Ward copywriter Robert L. May's poem concerning a misfit reindeer with a neon nose, adding to the team.

The roots of Santa Claus spring forth from the love, joy, gracious generosity and living faith in the historic Christ in whom, though not seeing, we believe and emulate.

His story and St. Nick's are in our own church library. I trust he is also in your heart during this season and beyond.

Sign up for Fellowship dinners being scheduled in January through April

The weather is getting cooler and it's time to begin thinking about the warmth of a good fellowship meal and evening.

We've had several new members join the Kirk this fall and it's time to help them get to know others in the congregation. It only works if seasoned veterans sign up along with the new members, so if you're ready to start your winter schedule, please use the sign-up sheets available in the bulletins on the first two Sundays in December, or call us at 922 6475.

Each couple, or pair of singles,

will host one dinner in the January-to-April fellowship dinner period. The host provides the main course. The others bring companion dishes. Then the group decides on the remaining two dates when they will meet and if they would prefer breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Remember, it's the fellowship that counts, not the meal.

Please sign up no later than Dec. 15. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at 922-6475 or email us at

tb4booth@sbcglobal.net.

— Barbara and Tony Booth



Dennis Zymboly cooks the main course. (Pat Hightower photo)



Happy dates



Birthdays

Dec. 1	Ruth Hamilton	Dec. 11	Christine Hoagland	Dec. 20	Madelyn Young
	Gary Rector	Dec. 12	Patricia Mershon	Dec. 21	Eleanor Hadley
Dec. 2	Martha Copeland	Dec. 13	Pat Mull	Dec. 22	Peggy Sowers
Dec. 7	Daryl Henry	Dec. 14	Jack Bullard	Dec. 28	Robert Sonnen
Dec. 8	Wendy Gage	Dec. 15	Pat Rea		Becky Wakefield
Dec. 9	Carolyn Kane		Della Reimers	Dec. 29	Susan Morrow
	Fran Stroud	Dec. 18	Arnie Holtberg	Dec. 30	Barb Kalsbeek
Dec. 10	Carol Case		Mary Wright		Ellen Marshall

Anniversaries

Dec. 1	Sissy and David Wilson	32 years	Dec. 23	Carol and Gary Clark	49 years
Dec. 5	Gail and David Salmen	46 years		Susan and Bob Morrow	41 years
Dec. 17	Debbie and Jim Cordell	33 years	Dec. 28	Sally and Harry Lester	22 years
Dec. 19	Mary and Ray Beal	63 years	Dec. 29	Becky and Harry Wakefield	44 years
	Jan and Arnie Holtberg	46 years	Dec. 31	Barbara and Jerry McAnarney	5 years
Dec. 23	Lorraine and Bob Berry	39 years			

Holiday music will 'stretch' our musicians

The choir works hard, and we also know how to play.

Choir members were "stretched" to sing *It is not Death to Die* on All Saints' Day. It was a difficult number expressing our Christian surety that there is life after death.

Anthems for the remainder of the year were posted by mid-October. Practicing them begins many weeks before they are presented at worship services.

Hasn't it been a treat to have guest musicians accompany us on Sunday mornings?

One of the guest musicians, Bernadette

FitzPatrick, also treated the choir and their spouses to a piano duet with Donna Toney at a party at the Toney's home. The



Choir Notes

Dotty Rector

Toneys have two grand pianos in their living room. How special is that?

Donna has known Bernadette for many years from their friendship in Baton Rouge. Bernadette was the organist at their church. The party gave the choir an opportunity to just socialize and put work aside for a while.

With the start of Advent on Dec. 3, anthems of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child will begin.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. Glorious Christmas music will be presented then. We all look forward to renewing our faith which began with the babe in a manger.



Pastor Bailey to lead 12-day tour to France

Pastor Bill Bailey has announced he will lead a 12-day tour of France and Geneva, Switzerland, on June 11-22 next year. June is the perfect time of the year to visit as it will be sunny and warm.

The “The Best of France with Geneva, Switzerland” itinerary includes visiting Nice on the French Riviera, traveling through the beautiful French Alps to Geneva, which is home of the Reformation, and to Lyon in the heart of Burgundy, renowned for its French Gastronomy.

And, of course, Paris, plus many other areas.

Colorful brochures with the full itinerary are available in the literature stands in the church narthex, in the hallway outside the Kirk office, or by emailing kirktour@gmail.com. Brochures can be emailed to your family and friends, too.

The tour is \$3,979 for each person from Dallas. Included is round-trip airfare from Dallas, first-class hotels, breakfast daily, seven dinners, guides, hotel service charges, local taxes, portage, and entrance fees.

Include this fantastic trip in your travel plans for next year. Even if you have visited France before, you likely will see sites you missed, and then there's always the great food and Pastor Bailey's expert guidance!



The Eiffel Tower in Paris is one of the many places to be visited next June on Bill Bailey's tour to France and Switzerland.

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

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