

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIV, Issue 12, December 2018



Candlelight celebration on Christmas Eve

By **Susan Morrow**

Join us at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve for the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Experience with us the silence and stillness of the night as we await the birth of the Christ Child.

Raise your voice with us to sing carols of the joyful birth that herald this season of new life.

Help us light the way with candlelight pointing to the light of Christ born to show us the way to life and light.

Beginning at 4 p.m. as a prelude to the service, organist Donna Toney, music director Randy Toney and others will perform a selection of music celebrating the Christmas season.

This will conclude around 4:45.

Come celebrate the cradle of the Christ Child with us on this special night.

Susan Morrow 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



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 Conference Room



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



Be patient ... Christmas will come soon enough

Presbyterian minister and author Fred Buechner once wrote:

“For all our efforts, we still have not managed to ruin Christmas.

“We have commercialized almost everything. People spending money they don’t have, buying presents we don’t need or want. Plastic trees, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Hallmark Virgin.”

In fact, for most of our history, the church has set aside the season of Advent to help us prepare for God’s coming – the word Advent simply means “coming.” An entire season to help us slow down and not rush too quickly into Christmas.

Advent is a curious season when we celebrate the already and the not yet. The four weeks of Advent call us to remember our Lord’s first coming 2,000 years ago, while, at the same time, preparing us for our Lord’s second coming.



Help decorate Kirk with poinsettias

By Priscilla Hayek

As a tradition, we will decorate our sanctuary this Christmas using poinsettia plants to glorify God.

Bright red flowers have been known as the “Flores de Noche Buena,” or “Flowers of the Holy Night.” The poinsettia flowers and leaves symbolize the Star of Bethlehem and the color, the blood of Christ.

You may order one or more to honor or remember a loved one, in gratitude for grandchildren, family, military personnel or others.

When order forms show up in the bulletin, be a participant in this Christmas celebration.

Priscilla Hayek is the Kirk’s traditional Poinsettia Lady.

The Pastor’s Corner Bill Bailey



Of course, as Buechner points out, with our culture in full consumer mode, many people would just as soon skip over Advent and go straight to Christmas.

I sometimes hear this in the Kirk – “why don’t we sing more Christmas carols and sing them earlier in December?” The answer is always the same – “because it is Advent!”

Advent can be a rich season of spiritual reflection and growth. We believe God is still coming into our world and lives. We believe that God is still at work redeeming and saving us even now.

Advent begins Dec. 2 this year. As always we will include singing Advent hymns as well as the lighting of the Advent Wreath in worship.

May the Lord bless and keep you this holiday season. And may Christ be born in your hearts again.

Grace, and Peace,

Bill

Potter’s Clay getting help from food Basket

During December, the Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Potter’s Clay. 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.

We thank Potter’s Clay for the work they do, and we thank you for helping them. The generosity of the Kirk congregation never ceases to amaze. The Mission Committee appreciates your help with this worthwhile local ministry.



What draws folks to the Kirk was discussed

Church statistics:

As of Nov. 4, 2018: Members – 328; family units – 221.

New Members:

Steven and Gloria Klomsten, 18 Meseta Lane, Hot Springs Village, 71909. Phone number: (262) 370-7506

Members who have moved:

Charles and Betty Reece have moved to Tupelo, Miss., and now attend First Presbyterian in Tupelo.

Katherine Edwards has moved.

Retreat:

The Session met Oct. 22-23 at Ferncliff for its annual retreat.

The first day and a half members discussed things about the Kirk that attract individuals. Session members felt Rev. Bill Bailey is one of the main reasons. The Saturday and Sunday sermons, Wednesday Bible Study and the Thursday Study Group were well received by members and visiting participants. His extensive reading and frequent visits to the Holy Land bring the Bible to life.

Another area having a strong influence is the music



program. Randy and Donna Toney continue to improve the music at the Sunday service. Choir participation and involvement is increasing and their presentations are anticipated by those attending the Service.

Another area is the friendly atmosphere of the Kirk. The ushers and greeters always meet those attending with a smile and a friendly “good morning.”

We all enhance that friendly atmosphere of the Kirk when we demonstrate we care. You can personally invite visitors downstairs for coffee and cookies.



Kirk members co-host state Presbytery meeting

By Pat Kuntz

The many volunteers from Kirk in the Pines who co-hosted the 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas made the event a great success.

The meeting was Oct. 19-20 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Ferndale.

Pastor Bill Bailey, Nancy Patton, Jerral Johnson and Ruth Hamilton planned the Friday night hamburger picnic and worship service. Randy and Donna Toney and many members of the Kirk Choir led the attendees in song for the worship

hour. Volunteers from the Kirk served as parking attendants, fry cooks, ushers and more.

When the meeting convened Saturday morning, various committees gave their reports.

Ruth Hamilton presented a report for the Coordinating Team. A motion was made for the Presbytery to dismiss Woodlands Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs Village from the PC(USA) in order to be received by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, subject to the receipt of \$30,000 within 10 days of the vote. The motion passed.

Other business included:

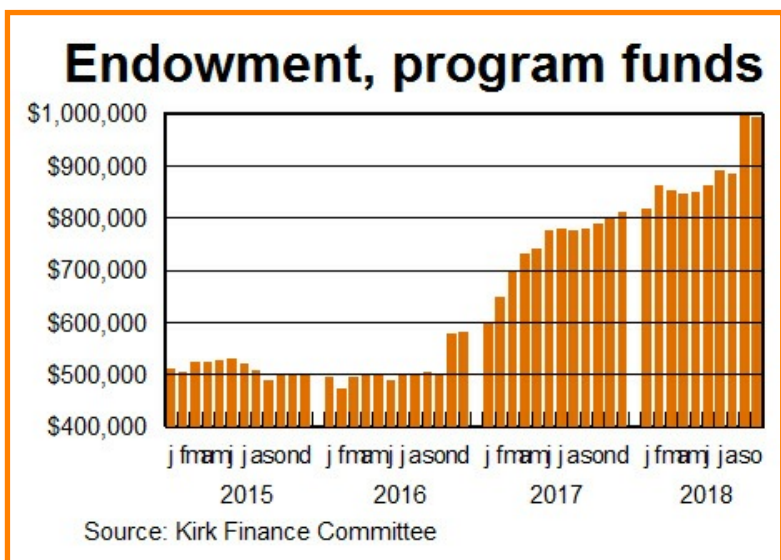
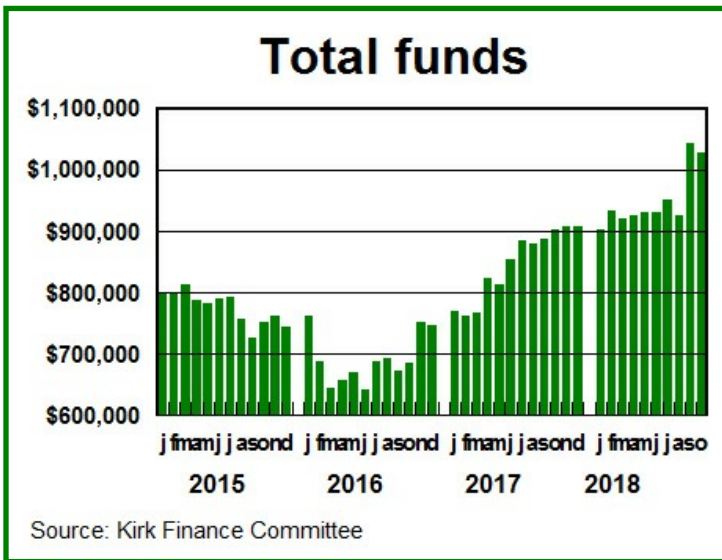
- Theological discussion on “Politics and the Pulpit,” related to a proposed amendment the Presbytery will vote on next March at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville.

- A report from a task force on staff structure. It calls for one full-time position of General Presbyter and five part-time positions – Stated clerk and Presbytery administrator, builder, connector and developer of ministries for young people.

Pat Kuntz is Ruling Elder Commissioner.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report Year to date as of Oct. 31, 2018

| | Month | | Year to date | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual |
| General Fund: | | | | |
| Receipts | \$ 36,311 | \$ 30,704 | \$ 363,107 | \$ 364,091 |
| Disbursements | \$ 36,311 | \$ 47,016 | \$ 363,107 | \$ 324,641 |
| Building Fund: | | | | |
| Receipts | \$ 4,543 | \$ 2,449 | \$ 45,430 | \$ 45,037 |
| Disbursements | \$ 4,543 | \$ 9,420 | \$ 45,430 | \$ 101,991 |
| Total all funds: | | | | |
| Receipts | \$ 40,854 | \$ 33,153 | \$ 408,537 | \$ 409,128 |
| Disbursements | \$ 40,854 | \$ 56,436 | \$ 408,537 | \$ 426,633 |
| Checking and Money Market Funds Balance | | | | \$ 32,085 |
| Special funds: | | | | |
| Memorial fund | | | | \$ 46,031 |
| Luke 12:48 fund | | | | \$ 216,396 |
| Programs fund | | | | \$ 91,348 |
| Endowment fund | | | | \$ 609,803 |
| Maack-Ormsbee Fund | | | | <u>\$ 30,867</u> |
| Total special funds | | | | \$ 994,445 |



\$773 for Mission

Thank you for supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of **\$773** 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.

Thinking of you...

Each Saturday and Sunday the Congregational Care Committee will be asking Kirk members to sign a beautiful card to be mailed to a church member who has not been able to attend services due to illness or disability.

Please add your signature to these cards and join the congregation in wishing others well.

Thank you.



Kathy Allison, Sharon Gardner, Patty Van Cleave and Kay Crews make up Treble in the Village and they will lead us in a holiday Sing-along on Dec. 6. *(Judy Rowe photo)*

Bring an hors d'oeuvre and some friends for a holiday sing-along with Treble in the Village

The annual Christmas Gathering and Sing-along will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in Hoffius Hall.

The festive holiday event will be led by the award-winning quartet – Treble in the Village, composed of Kathy Allison, Sharon Gardner,

Patty Van Cleave and Kay Crews.

They will lead the audience in many favorite and much-loved holiday songs and perform selections from their own seasonal repertoire.

Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share. While you're at it, bring a friend or two or more and enjoy immersing yourself together in the Christmas spirit. Everyone is invited.





Elders teach, manage church activities

By Lowell Gardner

Traditionally, the governing body of a Presbyterian Church is made up of “elders.” The word elder is derived from the Greek word presbuteros, meaning “old person,” to imply maturity and wisdom. From this we derive the name Presbyterian.

There are two types of elders, the teaching elder and the ruling elder. The names indicate the areas of responsibility and training.

The teaching elder identifies those with the insight and training to lead the church in the understanding and interpretation of the Bible, the Word of God. They are also versed in the history and traditions of Presbyterian beliefs, its doctrines.

Bill Bailey is the Kirk’s teaching elder, as has been Don Trent, Mike Seitz and Sam Pope, in recent memory. Bill is also designated Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Ruling elders are those who guide the church in all

Elders to be installed

Newly elected elders will be installed as Session members as part of the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 16. They have been elected to three-year terms.

Barron Gage and Tom Hayek will begin their second terms as Building and Grounds Moderators, respectively.

Carol Clark is beginning her responsibilities as both Member Outreach Moderator and Trustee.

Harry Wakefield has volunteered to redirect his energies from Outreach to Missions.

All Kirk members are encouraged to be present and take part in this service. By so doing, we acknowledge and lend personal encouragement and continued prayer support for those offering leadership in all our ministries.



Session at work

A look at what the Kirk’s committees do for you

other aspects of its mission or ministries. This can cover caring for the sick and elderly, maintaining its properties, hiring and guiding staff, supporting various missionary endeavors, and production of a newsletter, to name a few. At the Kirk, these are individuals nominated and elected from the local membership.

All elders are ordained, that is, set apart by the Spirit of God to do God’s work. The teaching elders are ordained by the Presbytery or “elders,” as it were, of the greater body, in our case, the Presbyterian Church, USA or its local affiliate, Presbytery of Arkansas. The ruling elders are ordained by the local church.

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines is governed by 12 elders, including Clerk of Session. Each elder is assigned an area of responsibility and are called Moderators of that area. They meet monthly as a body referred to as a Session or in Session.

We have begun a series in the newsletter entitled “The Session at Work.” It is designed to aid in understanding how the Kirk functions in its ministry, our ministry as church and congregation.

We began in November with money and the Moderator (elder) of Finance, Sharon Gardner, and her committee. Next month we will feature Moderator of Building, Barron Gage, and his committee’s work.

We hope it is informative and is entertaining.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



Session members in the front row are (from left) Carol Clark, Nancy Patton, Vicki Rosenquist and Sharon Gardner, and (second row) Pat Kuntz, Barron Gage, Bill Bailey and Lowell Gardner, and (back row) Harry Wakefield, Jerral Johnson, Tom Hayek and Jim Erickson.

Kirk leaders gather for two days at Ferncliff

By Lowell Gardner

Lighting the Christ Candle, Pastor Bill Bailey exhorted Clerk of Sessions Jerral Johnson and 10 of the 11 Kirk moderators to “Arise, shine, for your light is come!”

This opened the 2018 annual Kirk Session two-day retreat on Oct. 22 at Ferncliff Conference Center. Congregational Care Moderator Sally Fink could not participate due to illness and concerns of contagion.

“The glory of the Lord is risen upon us,” responded the 11 in attendance, from *Isaiah 60:1*, as Bill guided the ladies and gentlemen through the 28 hours of worship, meditation, reflection, review, evaluation, rejoicing, soul searching

and planning that composes a session retreat.

Similar to retreats of past years, these elected leaders, a third of whom are replaced or re-elected annually, meet to seek the Spirit of our Lord in ascertaining those areas of the Kirk ministry that are achieving their goals and purposes and those which need to be improved, re-imaged or redirected.

In addition to discussions on enhancing and altering the ministries of the Kirk, we were challenged in four worship periods to better understand the definition of and the fulfillment of the position of ruling elder in the Presbyterian polity and ministry.

With *Matthew 25*, *I Corinthians 8*, *I Timothy 3*, other scriptures and supplemental materials, Pastor Bill led discussions on what is a ruling elder and what makes a good one.

We delved into such issues as, what to do when we disagree and can we be concerned about playing it too safe, all done in a spirit of mutual love and respect.

A retreat atmosphere allowed for fireside chats, good food and shared tears and laughter.

Thank you to the Kirk congregation for allowing this time of annual reflection that we may more effectively lead.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
And the government is upon His shoulder; And
His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

— Isaiah 9:6





Della Reimers, Helen Van Stone and Ruth Richards with pots of chili. (Jamie Federick photos)



Police Chief Ricky Middleton spoke and answered questions about safety in the Village.

First chili cook-off was tasty success; Ruth Mattingly judged to have the best

By Vicki Rosenquist

The Kirk's first chili cook-off on Tuesday, Oct. 30, in Hollius Hall, attracted 88 diners who had 13 pots of chili to taste, along with many delicious breads and tasty corn breads.

Congratulations to Ruth Mattingly who won the contest!

From the positive response, it looks like there will be a second annual cook-off next year.

A huge thank-you goes out to all who made this event possible. From the chili and bread makers to the Fellowship Committee who helped plan, set up, and clean up.

A special thanks to Sharon Hogue and Marcia Bauer who made the delicious cakes. Many people pitched in to help with table set up and last-minute tasks. Thank you!

Hot Springs Village police chief Ricky Middleton's informative talk on safety in the Village was well received. There was a lengthy Q&A after his presentation.

We look forward to providing this opportunity for fun and fellowship next year.

Vicki Rosenquist is Moderator of the Fellowship Committee.

*One of the nice things
about this job ...*



Your Kirk Staff

**Bill Bailey, Randy Toney,
Donna Toney, Janie Smith,
Beverly Schaumburg, Chris
Taylor-Wilmoth, Arthur "Chip"
Johnson**

... is working with you
**Merry
Christmas**



Gamers at work! Playing Rummikubs at the table on the left are (from left) Lois Dykstra, Barbara Fuquay, Darlene Slater and Carol Clark, while Mexican Train is enjoyed at the other table by Bob Huff, Vianne Huff, Sherry Bingham, Ludean Walston and Jerral Johnson. *(Barbara Worthley photo)*

All welcome to bring food and join Kirk gamers

By Barbara Worthley

On the first Tuesday night of each month, the Games Night Shepherd Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in Hoffius Hall for fellowship, snacks, and any kind of card, board or domino game.

At the last meeting on Nov 6, three different games were played. One group of six played Hand and Foot dominoes. Another group of six enjoyed a game of Mexican Train and a third group played Rummikubs.

Light snacks are provided by members on a rotating schedule. In December everyone will bring a covered dish for a Christmas buffet.

Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be a member of this Shepherd Group to come and be a part of the fun. Bring your own game if you would like, or join others in any of their games.

Barbara Worthley is a member of the Communication Committee.

Mardi Gras bus trip planned for next March

By Sharon Gardner

You're invited to join a Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Mardi Gras bus trip to Eunice, La., next March 1-3.

This unique celebration is not your typical idea of Mardi Gras with beads and doubloons. In fact, you won't find these trinkets in sight.

Instead, men and women on horseback wearing handcrafted wire masks, tall hats called *capuchons*, and very distinctive costumes will be on parade. You will be witnessing a Courir de Mardi Gras celebration

like those of Cajun rural areas in southwestern Louisiana.

You can cut loose the whole weekend long in Eunice. Events include music concerts, jam sessions, street dances, cooking demonstrations and more.

We will travel via deluxe motor coach roundtrip from Hot Springs Village and spend two nights at Evangeline Downs Hotel in Opelousas.

On Saturday you will take a class and create a traditional Mardi Gras mask. You can enjoy Acoustic Cajun French music, a cooking

demonstration with samples of dishes indicative of the area, and the Rendez-vous des Cajuns show at the Liberty Theatre.

You can also go on an authentic Cajun Louisiana guided swamp tour.

Cost of the trip is \$546, payable at the time of booking. The tour is non-refundable but name changes are allowed. Optional cancellation insurance is available for \$75.

Contact Vacation Valet (984-6191) or the Kirk office (922-1333) for information.

Sharon Gardner is coordinating the bus trip.



Italian artist Guido Reni (1575-1642) portrait of Joseph holding Jesus.

News flash:

Joseph to appear Dec. 15 at Saturday service

By Lowell Gardner

Once again, as previously engaged, the Saturday evening Informal Worship will host at 5 p.m. Dec. 15, the appearance of Joseph of Nazareth, husband of Mary, earthly mother of Jesus, who was revealed Messiah of Israel and Savior of the nations.

Portraying Joseph will be the Kirk's own Dennis Zymboly, as he guides worshipers through the experience of an aging craftsman's adventure into matrimony and its extraordinary consequences.

Dennis will be accompanied by the ladies' quartet, Treble in the Village. They will be singing *Believe*, the theme melody from the 2004 Christmas film, *Polar Express*.

All are invited to continue into the season of joy, hope, trust, generosity and redeeming faith.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

PW to meet Dec. 10 for holiday message and fun

By Carol Sue Williams

The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering and Luncheon will be on Dec. 10. We will meet at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary where the Rev. Bill Bailey will give to us the message God puts on his heart.

We will then move down to Hoffius Hall for a luncheon prepared by the Greenhorns.

The cost is \$10, payable at the door. Reservations can be made with your caller or by contacting Norma Stevens at 915-8048 by Dec. 2.

We will be entertained by Treble in the Village after lunch. All women in the Kirk are invited to join us and share in this holiday event.

Carol Sue Williams is PW Moderator.

Golfers taking time off

No Kirk golf in December!

It's strange not to be setting up the pairings, measuring distance to the cup, sharing dinner and handing out awards.

The 2018 season is over. It is an opportunity to enjoy the winter months. There is still time to work on your game. YES, we will be playing in April 2019.

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

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

If you would like additional information, please call Jim Hess at 922-2326, or email jimobhess@suddenlink.net.

PW Coffee Closet will open Sunday, Dec. 9

The PW Coffee closet is open the second Sunday of each month 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.

Fair Trade products are natural and delicious, but the best part is each purchase helps a family farm across the world and helps support a community's economy.

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

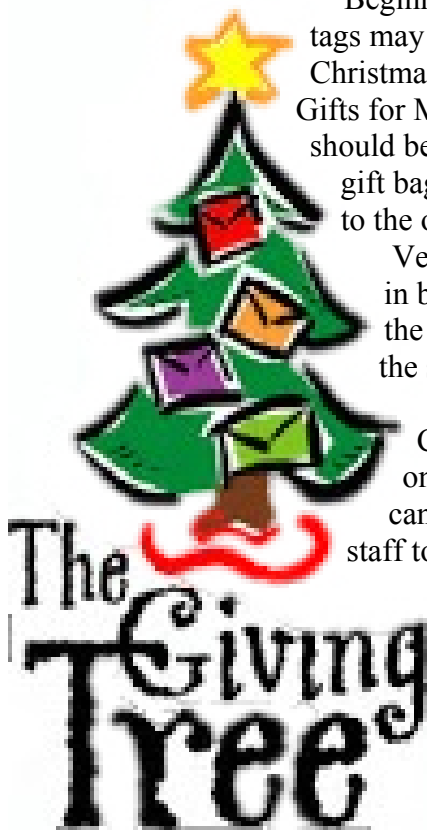


Use the Giving Tree to put a smile on the face of a needy child

By Carol Clark

Some 23 years ago, the Kirk Mission Committee began the Christmas Giving Tree. Since then, Kirk members have helped put smiles on the faces of hundreds of boys and girls in our community.

The Christmas Giving Tree will be loaded with tags again this season for children from Mountain Pine Headstart, Vera Lloyd Children's Home and Ouachita Children's Center.



Beginning Sunday, Dec. 2, tags may be pulled off the Christmas tree in the narthex. Gifts for Mountain Pine children should be returned wrapped or in gift bags with the tag attached to the outside of the package.

Vera Lloyd gifts should be in bags with tag attached so the contents are visible to the staff at Vera Lloyd.

Ouachita Children's Center asks for gift cards only again this year which can be used by youth or staff to purchase gifts. A basket will be placed in the narthex for placement of the gift cards.

The tag and gift card should be taped together if possible to ensure that it goes to

Ouachita instead of Vera Lloyd.

Look for the festive tree in the narthex beginning Dec. 2. The deadline for returning gifts will be Dec. 16. Elves from the Mission Committee will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

Tags on the tree list specific information to assist in shopping for the perfect gift for the lucky recipient. If you have questions please call me at 915-8497. Thank you for sharing your love with boys and girls in need in our community.

Carol Clark is Moderator of the Outreach Committee.



The Mail Corner

This year's pledges must be in by Dec. 31

Contributions for your 2018 pledge must be received in the office by Dec. 31 in order to be credited on your 2018 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 2019 statement.

Thank you.

Beverly Schaumburg
Kirk Business Administrator

Kirk thanked for hosting state event

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines:

Thanks for your help cohosting our 139th meeting Nov. 16-17 and many thanks for your help with the Presbytery's worship service last week. (Nov. 16). The Kirk did an outstanding job!!

Blessings.

Stewart Smith
General Presbyter, Arkansas

Anonymous donor gives \$50,000 to Kirk

The Kirk in the Pines has received an anonymous donation of \$50,000.

Fifty percent of the donation will go to the Luke 12:48 endowment to support Vera Lloyd, Ferncliff and the Kirk's Education Committee.

The other 50 percent will go into the Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship Fund.

Because of anonymous and other donors, we will be able to keep these missions going into the future.

Thank you so very much!

Sharon Gardner, Moderator
Finance Committee

Sign up in December for the Dinner for Six program

By Barbara and Tony Booth

Brrr!!! It's getting colder outside. What better way to get all warm and fuzzy than by spending time in the fellowship of Kirk members.

We've had several new members this year and there is no better way to get to know them than by spending time in a small group setting for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

This works best if some of our seasoned veterans sign up along with our newer members. Use the sign-up sheets available in the bulletins on the first



two Sundays in December or call us at 984-1550.

Each couple – or a pair of singles – will host one time in the January-to-April period. The host provides the main course and the others bring companion dishes. Then the group decides on the remaining two dates and whether it will be for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Remember, it's the fellowship that counts, not the meal. Please sign up no later than Dec. 12. You can give us a call at 984-1550 or email us at tb4booth@sbcglobal.net if you have any comments or questions.

Barbara and Tony Booth are leaders of the Dinner For Six program.

Here's a month for beginnings, and endings

December is a month of beginnings and endings.

In December we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and conclude an old year, in this case 2018.

We welcome a brand new 2019 as we acknowledge the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy (*Matthew 1:22*). Dec. 21 is winter solstice, the shortest period of daylight, longest night of darkness and the beginning of the lengthening of daylight hours.

Of course, this month is the eve of New Year's resolutions, the surrendering of previous habits or practice and the initiating of new ones.

This could be an opportunity to enhance your ongoing Bible study experience for the new year of 2019. Approach the New Year by allowing the Bible to become the source book for grounding you in the doctrines of your own faith and that of your church.

You need not be frightened by the work "doctrine." By definition, doctrine simply means that which is taught. What does the Bible teach about God, Jesus, life, love, hope, the future, forgiveness, on and on? What does your church teach about all this?

Another often misunderstood – and sometimes frightening word – is theology.



Carnegie

Corner

By Lowell Gardner

In our church library is the book *Christian Doctrine*, by Shirley C. Guthrie. While expressing himself in extremely down-to-earth ways, he defines the study of theology as "the quest for ultimate truth about God, about ourselves and about the world we live in."

In each chapter he defines how each of the teachings (doctrines) in the Christian faith applies to these three major areas – God, ourselves and our world.

To understand the priority of the author, the very first chapter of the book is focused on the human, both the reader and the writer.

It is a new challenge for a new year. It is a new way to look at an established practice, reading the Bible. The library has two copies of the book.

Check it out.



Happy dates



Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|----------|---------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Sissy and David Wilson | 34 years | Dec. 23 | Susan and Bob Morrow | 43 years |
| Dec. 5 | Gail and David Salman | 48 years | Dec. 28 | Sally and Harry Lester Edie and Don Loveday | 24 years 50 years |
| Dec. 17 | Debbie and Jim Cordell | 35 years | Dec. 29 | Becky and Harry Wakefield | 46 years |
| Dec. 19 | Jan and Arnie Holtberg | 48 years | Dec. 31 | Barbara and Jerry McAnarney | 7 years |
| Dec. 21 | Barbara and Dan Chambliss | 1 year | | | |
| Dec. 23 | Lorraine and Bob Berry | 41 years | | | |

Male voices enrich Kirk's choral tradition

Have you noticed how many men sing in the Kirk choir? It is unique for a church to have so many male singers.

At the recent Presbytery meeting at Ferncliff, a delegate from NW Arkansas remarked "I've never seen so many men in a church choir!"

Norm Martin is probably the Kirk's longest-serving male choir member. He says he loves to share his gifts with others, and singing in worship is very fulfilling for him.

Norm loves music and is particularly complimentary of our current director and organist.

Surveys show women outnumber men 2-to-1 in traditional church choirs.

Our choir has 11 men, which is about right on target. We also have two women who sing with our Tenor section. That means the balance between the four choral parts – soprano, alto, tenor and bass – is just about ideal.

The Kirk choir is also unique because of its large size. There are 35 singers in all. That is truly amazing for a church of our size.

The Kirk has had a long history of quality choral



Choir Notes

***Randy Toney &
Dotty Rector***

singing. We owe that to the singers and directors who have served the Kirk since its formation.

Two members recently returned to the choir after an absence – Bev Bullard and Linda Heitz. It is good to have them back.

As Norm says, "Singing in the choir is fun."

Even rehearsals are fun ... particularly if Donna is cutting up behind Randy's back!

If you enjoy singing, and think you might like to enrich our worship services with song, come check us out, and stick around if you enjoy it.

Randy Toney is the Kirk's Music Director and Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

Take a seat and become ageless

By Susan Unger

One Tuesday afternoon in September, I popped in to check out the Ageless Grace Program. It teaches participants 21 easy-to-remember tools to stimulate the brain and body.

It is done seated in a chair. The program focuses on the five functions of the brain – strategic planning, memory and recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination, and kinesthetic learning.

The fun and energetic Kathy Packard, from Oaklawn Center on Aging, leads the class.

The Tuesday I dropped by to take pictures, there was so much infectious laughter, I decided to participate myself. Using a variety of music and no props – just your body seated in a chair and your imagination – you will definitely get a full workout!

Bring a friend or come and make some new ones.

Ageless Grace is offered each Tuesday afternoon from 3:30-4 p.m. in Hoffius Hall. It is followed from



Kathy Packard leading the Ageless Grace program in Hoffius Hall. (Susan Unger photo)

4-4:30 p.m. by a Tai Chi class. Tai Chi helps calm and cool the body while continuing to stimulate your mind through use of focus and concentration.

Susan Unger is a member of the Congregational Care/Wellness Committee.

Kirk Staff

William B. Bailey – Senior Pastor

Randy Toney – Director of Music

Donna Toney – Organist/Pianist

Janie Smith – Visitation Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth – Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg – Business Administrator

Arthur “Chip” Johnson – Sexton

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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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