

# A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXV, Issue 12, December 2019



The Kirk Choir will present a special Christmas concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. (Robert Sonnen photo)

## **Our Christmas Gift: Carols from around the world**

By Susan Morrow

To add to your celebration of the arrival of the Christ Child, the Kirk choir will present *Our Christmas Carols from Around the World*, a Sunday afternoon choral concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 8 in the sanctuary.

Music Director Randy Toney said: "This Christmas program not only includes well-known carols originating from France, England, Germany, Ireland and the Soviet Ukraine, but will also feature four-hand piano artistry by Donna Toney and Fran Stroud."

The choir will perform some of the oldest extant carols. The traditional English carol *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*, dates back to the 16th century. The

*Wexford Carol* (a carol originating from County Wexford in Ireland) dates to the 12th century.

The beloved *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* or in German *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* from the early 17th century first appeared as a hymn. German composer Michael Praetorius wrote the harmonization which has remained virtually unchanged to this day.

The holiday tune we all recognize as the *Bell Carol* wasn't originally a holiday song at all but a New Year's folk melody from the Soviet Ukraine.

In a period of political unrest for the fledging Ukrainian government there was a mandate to form the Ukrainian National Chorus to promote Ukrainian

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## **When we meet**

**Sunday worship service**  
begins at 10 a.m.



**Saturday informal service**  
Begins at 5 p.m. in Hoffius Hall

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
9 a.m. In Hoffius Hall



**Thursday Discussion Group**  
9 a.m. in Conference Room



## How will you celebrate birth of Christ this year?

As we approach this Christmas celebration, amidst the stresses and strains in our country, I am drawn to two stories, one historic, one literary.

On June 28, 1914, a Serbian member of a political splinter-group assassinated Austrian successor to the throne, Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo, plunging the great European powers, and ultimately the United States, into World War I.

On Dec. 7, 1914, Pope Benedict XV's call for a Christmas truce was quickly rejected by military leaders on both sides.

On Christmas Eve, British troops began to hear murmurings from the other side of the battle line. It was determined German soldiers were singing Christmas Carols in their trenches. The English soldiers began to sing along to the familiar melodies.

During a pause, there was heard confusing shouts in heavily accented English from the German side. "Come over here!"

A British sergeant was reported to have replied, "You come half way. I come half way."

History determined that by midday Christmas Day, all across the Western Front, handshakes, words of kindness, songs, tobacco and bottles of wine were exchanged and traded across the No-Man's Land



### The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



between the trenches. Even a soccer game broke out.

The Word of God echoed in the pre-civil war spiritual come to mind. "I ain't goin' study war no more."

William Sydney Porter – pharmacist, banker, author of short stories – began writing under the pen name O. Henry while serving five years in an Ohio Penitentiary on an embezzlement conviction.

He wrote *Gift of the Magi* in 1905 to support his daughter, Margaret. It is a story of Della and Jim, a young, turn-of-the-century couple wishing to buy for each other a meaningful Christmas gift on a very tight budget.

Della decided to sell her gorgeous long hair to buy a platinum watch fob chain for Jim's prize watch. Unaware, Jim sold his watch to buy ornate crystal combs for Della's hair.

Armies of great nations, for a brief moment, recognize the folly of mutual annihilation. A foolish young couple sacrifices the treasuries of their meager home to learn what love really is.

And it was all done in celebration of the Prince of Peace, the Author of Love.

How will you celebrate the birth of the Christ Child this year?

## Special musical gift coming to the Kirk on Dec. 8

**Continued from page 1** music. This group performed the *Bell Carol* to a sold-out audience in Carnegie Hall on Oct. 5, 1921. Lyrics were subsequently changed and a "simple folk song performed in a remote Ukrainian Village became a 'super holiday hit' in the U.S."

*Keep Your Lamps* is an African-American Spiritual that has multiple layers of meaning. The text is based on Jesus' parable in Matthew 25:1-13. During the time of slavery, the song's meaning spoke of a faith that slavery would be abolished and that freedom was awaiting in heaven.

Today *Keep Your Lamps* speaks of preparing

ourselves for the Christ Child that has come, continues to come among us and will come.

These carols and other well-known Christmas favorites can be heard at 3 p.m. Sunday. The Kirk Choir looks forward to presenting this musical gift to the community while celebrating for ourselves the marvelous gift bestowed by our God. This is, as well, a chance to wish you a ...

Fröhlich Weihnachten!

Joyeux Noel!

Feliz Navidad!

Merry Christmas!

**Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.**



# It takes a lot of work to keep the Kirk rocking

## Membership status as of Nov. 7, 2019:

Members – 302

Family units – 205

## Member lost due to death:

Ruth Lauther passed away Oct 26, 2019, in Colorado Springs, Colo. The time for her Interment is undetermined but we are informed it will not be at the Kirk. Cards or notes of sympathy may be addressed to Sue Lauther, 222 E Columbia, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

## Highlights of the Session Retreat

### *Areas where the Kirk is doing well:*

Music program, welcoming spirit, preaching/teaching ministry, pastoral care, focus on missions, Saturday evening service, well-maintained facilities, landscape, memorial/reception services, endowment giving and management, Kirkin' of the Tartans.

### *Areas needing attention:*

Coffee servers and individuals to help with dish washing.

### *Matthew 25 Initiative:*

The Matthew Initiative proposed by the Presbytery was discussed by Session members but some items remain unclear. Jerral Johnson and Bill Bailey will visit the Presbytery in search of answers before a vote can be taken at the December meeting.

### *Session Committees:*

The Session is the ruling body of the Kirk. Members are elected by the congregation at a Called Congregation Meeting. They are responsible for the many activities of the Kirk.

Each member of Session acts as the moderator of specific committees. Moderators are responsible for recruiting members from the congregation to serve on individual committees. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact the moderator acting in your area of interest and express your interest in serving.

Moderators for the Session committees for 2020:

Tom Hayek – Grounds/Memorial Committee.

Lowell Gardner – Communication Committee.

Sally Fink – Congregation Committee.

Barron Gage – Building Committee.

Nancy Patton – Worship Committee.

Pat Kuntz – Education Committee.

Carol Clark – Member Outreach Committee.

Tony Booth – Administration Committee.

Arnie (Arnold) Holtberg – Finance Committee.

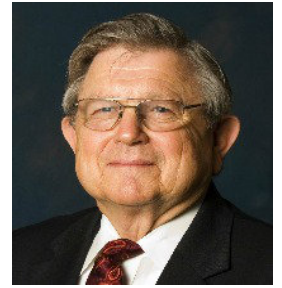
Ruth Richards – Fellowship Committee.

Harry Wakefield – Mission Committee.

Volunteers are needed for special activities.

## The Clerk's Corner

**Jerral Johnson**



Members are needed to serve coffee after the Saturday and Sunday worship services. Members are often asked to act as greeters and ushers for the two regular services in addition to memorial services. Others screen the attendance sheets for visitors at regular services.

These are only a few of the activities in which volunteers are called on to help.

### *Pledge Cards:*

If you have not sent in your pledge card, do so soon. Pledges assist the Session in planning it's work.

A few years ago, David Nottrott delivered a Sunday sermon entitled *Is the Kirk a Rocking Chair Church or is it a Rocking Church?* I want to believe this is a Rocking Church. We are working to make changes in our church, our community and worldwide. We are not sitting back on our laurels.

Keep Rocking. We should always be seeking ways to make improvements in all dimensions of our ministries and the community we serve.

## Help beautify the Kirk with purchase of holiday poinsettias

Beginning Dec. 1, an insert will be included in the Sunday bulletin in reference to ordering poinsettias to beautify the Kirk sanctuary during the Christmas holidays.

The inserts will appear for three consecutive Sundays. The cost to buy a plant will be \$8. Deadline for ordering poinsettias will be Dec. 15.

Once you complete your order form you may attach a check in the appropriate amount and place it in the offering plate, or pay at the Kirk office Monday through Thursday.

Thank you for your support again this year!

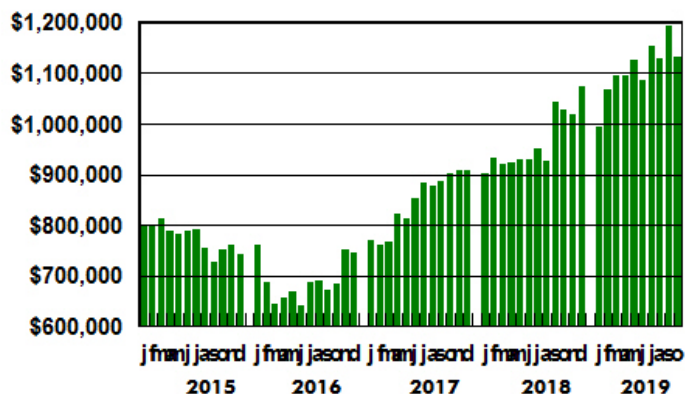
– Priscilla Hayek, Worship Committee.

# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

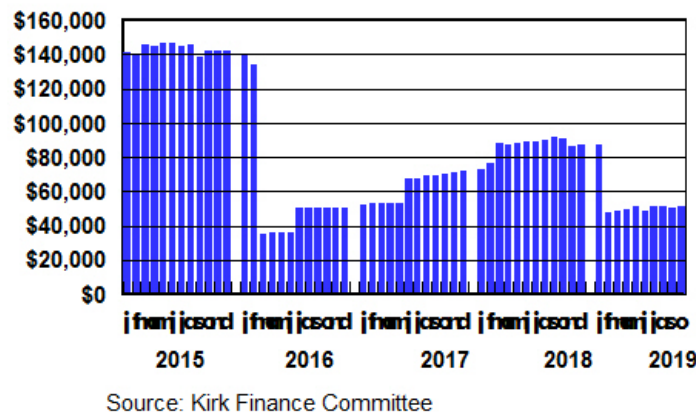
**Year to date as of October 31, 2019**

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 35,495	\$ 33,158	\$ 354,955	\$ 354,921
Disbursements	\$ 36,529	\$ 28,707	\$ 365,291	\$ 311,719
<b>Building Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,246	\$ 4,478	\$ 42,462	\$ 40,582
Disbursements	\$ 4,246	\$ 8,107	\$ 42,462	\$ 42,900
<b>Total all funds:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 39,741	\$ 37,636	\$ 397,417	\$ 395,503
Disbursements	\$ 40,775	\$ 36,813	\$ 407,753	\$ 354,619
Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				\$ 96,148
<b>Special funds:</b>				
Memorial fund				\$ 58,375
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 242,231
Programs fund				\$ 51,372
Endowment fund				\$ 624,450
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				<u>\$ 58,215</u>
<b>Total special funds</b>				<b>\$ 1,034,643</b>

### Total funds



### Program funds



## \$499 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate.

A total of \$499 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 asks 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.

## Cuatro Claviers bring grand music to large crowd at the Kirk

By Susan Morrow

I was truly carried away by Cuatro Claviers in their concert Oct. 27 in the Kirk Sanctuary.

Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire seemed to dance down the aisle while champagne bubbles flowed in the piano's upper octaves to the *Champagne Toccata* by William Glick.

Trolls invaded the wooded serenity of the sanctuary as the building shook with their every step to the music of *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, one of the selections of the Peer Gynt Suite by Edvard Grieg.

But troubles were chased away when Dorothy from Kansas sang *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* through the two pianos and eight hands of Ruth Clemens (Christ of the Hills Methodist organist), Martha Smither (pianist), Fran Stroud (Village United Methodist pianist) and Donna Toney (Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines organist/pianist).

The Cuatro Claviers concert included several orchestral transcriptions from Meyerbeer's *Coronation March* to Gounod's *Waltz* from the opera *Faust*. The orchestral timbres were expressively conveyed with the expansive registration allowed by two pianos and eight hands.

The Sunday afternoon's concert took us to other imaginary lands with a variety of programming that kept this standing-room only audience enthralled. I



The Cuatro Claviers – Martha Smither, Donna Toney, Fran Stroud and Ruth Clemens – entertained a standing-room-only audience at the Kirk. (Sharon Gardner photo)

brought a guest as I'm sure many of you did – a friend who loves music but had never been to the Kirk.

At the reception, hosted by Membership Outreach following the concert, additional tables and chairs were quickly assembled and set up as Hoffius Hall filled with concert goers, many who had their first introduction to the Kirk.

Music and missions made an unbeatable combination on this Sunday afternoon in October. \$2,400 in donations were raised for Kirk missions while the music swayed, bubbled and shook the sanctuary.

I'm back down to earth now but looking forward to the majesty of music every Sunday here at the Kirk.

*Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.*

## Potter's Clay getting help from Food Basket

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, 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.



Our own Carol Clark (left) meets guest preacher Carol Clark. The Rev Carol Clark delivered the message at the Sunday worship service on Nov. 17. Pastor Bill Bailey was leading a group of 39 Kirk members and others to Portugal and Spain. Rev. Carol Clark is retired and living in Little Rock. (Barbara Worthley photo)





Kirk elders attending their annual retreat at Ferncliff were (from left, front row) Sharon Gardner, Carol Clark, Ruth Richards, Pat Kuntz, Bill Bailey and Lowell Gardner, and (second row) Sally Fink, Harry Wakefield, Jerral Johnson and Arnie Holtberg, and (back row) Barron Gage, Vicki Rosenquist, Nancy Patton, Tony Booth, Tom Hayek and Jim Erickson.

## ***Session tackles many Kirk issues at retreat***

**By Lowell Gardner**

Feeding the flock and growing the flock were the ongoing challenges confronting the worship-driven 2019 Session Retreat on Oct. 28-29 at Ferncliff Youth Camp and Conference Center.

Drawing together the current Kirk Ruling Elders and three newly elected moderators, Minister of Word and Sacrament Bill Bailey lead the Session through a quite intense 28 hours of study, prayer, discussion, planning, interaction, fellowship and relaxation.

Beginning Monday morning with pages of the Iona Abbey Worship Book and concluding with communion by intinction at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, our elders wrestled both with what is working well in our Kirk and areas in which we can improve or on which we can expand.

As with the abbey off the western coast of Scotland, our points of worship on Saturday evening and Sunday morning are serving the people.

Music directed and enhanced by Randy and Donna Toney and Pastor Bailey's inspiring, enriching and informative messages are meeting needs.

This is also true of the Wednesday Bible and Thursday book studies.

Financial Moderator Sharon Gardner reported income versus outlay is stable. A well-maintained building and grounds, including the Memorial Garden, are inviting and well received.

The Greenhorns, PW ministries and fellowship activities serve exceedingly well. They create a setting for an open and welcoming spirit for which our Kirk is well known.

Our constant focus on ministering to those in need is commendable. Those individuals and groups from the Village who use our facilities compliment on the friendly and helpful staff.

The ongoing challenge continues to be growing

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## Reach out to the Giving Tree to help a child

Some 24 years ago, the Kirk Mission Committee put up its first 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 Head Start, Vera Lloyd Children's Home and Ouachita Children's Center.

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 1, tags may be pulled off the 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 presents should only be in gift bags, with the tag attached so the contents are visible to the Vera Lloyd staff.

Ouachita Children's Center asks for gift cards only, which can be used by youth or staff to purchase gifts. A basket will be placed in the Narthex where gift cards may be placed. The tag and gift card should be taped together to ensure their delivery to the Ouachita Children Center rather than Vera Lloyd.

Look for the festive tree in the narthex beginning Dec. 1. The deadline for returning gifts will be Dec. 15. Elves from the Mission Committee will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

Tags on the tree will list specific information to



assist anyone shopping for the perfect gift to please the lucky recipient.

If you have questions, call Becky Wakefield at 214 455-2921. Thank you for sharing your love by remembering boys and girls in our community.

## Elders look at many issues facing the Kirk's mission

*Continued from page 6*

and enriching our congregation while reaching out to the Village and the wider area with the redemptive grace of our God.

This concerted effort requires individual and institutional commitment – constructive, creative and persistent. It requires God-given wisdom in the use of time, programming, facilities and loving, patient cooperation.

I've only got a minute,  
Only sixty seconds in it.  
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,  
Didn't chose it, can't refuse it,  
But it's up to me to use it.  
I must suffer if I lose it,  
Give an account if I abuse it,  
Just a tiny little minute,  
But eternity is in it.

– Dr. Benjamin Mays

**Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.**

## PW Coffee Closet will open Sunday, Dec. 8

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.





# Party time!

A Halloween Masquerade Party, the brain child of Erick the Red (Randy Toney) and The Cheshire Cat (Beverly Bullard), was celebrated in the Choir Room of the Kirk on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 30.

Word has it all was truly "on key." There was a table spread with delectable goodies and famous homemade ice cream served up by the gourmet creators themselves, Clark and Jean Mowry.

It was reported the guest list extended from a Supreme Court Judge and Super Heroes to witches and a clown.

*Story and photos by Sharon Gardner*



Three Pumpkin Ladies – Linda Hommema, Dotty Rector and Ro Easter.

Donna (Judge RGB) Toney and Linda (Hippie) Heitz (below), and Gloria (The Clown) Pickett (right) getting a helping of ice cream prepared by Jean and Clark Mowry.



Dennis (Dinosaur) Zymboly (seated) and Barbara and Tony (Happy Coats) Booth.



Randy (Erik the Red) Toney.



Bev Bullard, a driving force behind the party.



Patty (The Witch) Van Cleave and Millie (Bewitched) Croson.



# How giving to a charity (hint, hint) can save you \$\$\$

By Sharon Gardner

How does a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA work?

Normally, when you take a distribution from a traditional IRA, you must pay taxes on the money withdrawn. You didn't pay taxes on the money when you put it into your IRA. Therefore you must pay when you withdraw it.

When you are age 70½ or older, you must, as you may already know, begin to withdraw a designated portion annually. If all or a portion of that is a contribution directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity, you can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution.

To avoid paying taxes on the donation, you must follow the IRS's rules for qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), also called charitable IRA rollovers.

Most churches, nonprofit charities, educational organizations, nonprofit hospitals and medical-research organizations are qualified charities. The charity you give to will not have to pay taxes on your donation.

Since you are already getting a tax break on your donation, you cannot double dip and also claim the donation as a deduction on Schedule A when you file your taxes. You're allowed just one tax break, not two.

If you make other charitable donations that don't use your IRA funds, you can still claim each of them as an itemized deduction on Schedule A.

## Tax brackets and rates – 2019

Unmarried individuals		Married individuals filing joint return	
Tax bracket	Tax rate	Tax bracket	Tax rate
10%	\$0	10%	\$0
12%	\$9,700	12%	\$19,400
22%	\$39,476	22%	\$78,950
24%	\$84,200	24%	\$168,400
32%	\$160,725	32%	\$321,450
35%	\$204,100	35%	\$408,200
37%	\$510,300	37%	\$612,350

– 2019 standard deduction and personal exemption filing status amount:

Single – \$12,200

Married, filing jointly – \$24,400

If you don't itemize your deductions and take the standard deduction on your annual tax return, a charitable IRA rollover will give you a tax break you otherwise couldn't receive for donating money.

Talk to your financial advisor for the specific details. Above are the tax rates. Reducing your gross income with your donation may put you in a lower tax bracket which will save even more money.

*Sharon Gardner is Moderator of the Finance Committee.*

# Kirk nursery will be open on as-needed basis

By Pat Kuntz

Beginning Dec. 1, the Education Committee, with the approval of Session, will change the way the church nursery is staffed.

If anyone in the congregation needs the nursery during the Sunday service, a memorial service or on Christmas Eve, please call Terry Arant at 512 966-9473 or me at 203 451-2376. Arrangements will be made for staffing.

The nursery has been staffed for memorial services in this manner for years. If anyone attends worship service unexpectedly, the parlor can be used, if necessary, for a crying child.



This change was made because we have been unable to recruit enough volunteers to staff the nursery on a regular Sunday basis.

In addition, the nursery is

equipped for infants through children age 6. Children older than 6 will be given a packet of age appropriate quiet activities to occupy them while they attend the church service.

The nursery has been used nine times this year. All the children were grandchildren or great-grandchildren of members of the congregation.

The Education Committee and nursery staffers want to have the nursery available when needed. With cooperation from the congregation, we are certainly dedicated to providing this service on an as-needed basis.

*Pat Kuntz is Moderator of the Education Committee.*

## **Cookie Monster (and others) are asking you for a little oven help**

*“Sunny day*

*“Sweepin’ the clouds away*

*“On my way to where the air is sweet*

*“Can you tell me how to get*

*“How to get to Sesame Street.”*

If you position yourself near the stairwell or the elevator just off the narthex at the Kirk you may imagine hearing the lilting strings of a very familiar ditty.

Glancing down over the stair railing you may observe a delightful fuzzy blue creature with a longing in his eyes and saliva dripping from his humongous mouth.

Yes! You guessed it. It’s Cookie Monster from Sesame Street.

He shares with members and friends of the Kirk a deep longing – an ever-lingering longing for homemade cookies. He and the Greenhorn Ladies need them for after-Sunday worship coffee/tea time, special events, receptions and similar occasions.

Can you meet his aching longing? Don’t you share his obsessive craving?



When you are baking for family needs or desires or have the oven warmed for some reason, add a dozen or two or ...! Cookie Monster (and we all, if the truth be told) place no limits on however many you wish to whip up. Do yourself proud!

Then place them in a freezer-safe container and put the container in the Kirk kitchen freezer. If you’re not sure how, notify one of the Greenhorn ladies or the office and leave the cookies in the container on the preparation/service table in the Kirk kitchen.

Cookie Monster (and we all) thank you ... and God bless you.

## **Session retreats to Ferncliff plan for new year**

**By Lowell Gardner**

In November of last year, Voice in the Pines began a series entitled “The Session at Work.” Its purpose was to highlight and bring to our reader’s attention the governing body of this Kirk.

Beginning with Committee on Finance under Moderator Sharon Gardner, we moved through the year in picture and script to more clearly define and broaden understanding of the mission regarding Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, its continuing outreach and service.

We began the new year with maintaining the building in which we worship and serve: Moderator Barron Gage, the Congregational Care of its people: Moderator Sally Fink, the Worship experience: Moderator Nancy Patton, Education of the faithful: Moderator Pat Kuntz, and the surrounding Grounds: Moderator Tom Hayek.

There were parties with a purpose: Fellowship Moderator Vicky Rosenquist, Member Outreach: Moderator Carol Clark, Administration: Moderator Jim Erickson, and Missions: Moderator Harry Wakefield.

We concluded with our own Communications Committee: Moderator Lowell Gardner.

We hope this have been helpful.

Each year we elect a third of the Session for three-year terms. They are traditionally introduced to their duties and their Session colleagues at the October retreat, most recently this past Oct. 28-29.

“Words that come to mind in being introduced to life in the Session were faithful, devoted, collegial and conscientious,” noted Moderator-elect of Finance Arnie Holtberg.

Moderator-elect of Administration Tony Booth found it “fascinating to follow Bill’s thought-provoking discussions” and committee reports “were obviously made from positions of experience and were also thought provoking.”

Moderator-elect for Fellowship, Ruth Richards, summed up her thought succinctly: “Ferncliff Elder Retreat was where ideas, prayers and comradery were shared.”

Harry Wakefield extended his ongoing Mission’s Moderator post an added three years.

***Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.***



# Christmas carols and spirit galore on Dec. 11

**By Vicki Rosenquist**

Everyone is invited to our annual Kirk Christmas Carol Program at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Hoffius Hall. It will be an occasion to enjoy the true Christmas Spirit.

First, tell your family. Then invite your neighbors and friends. Next prepare your favorite delicious hors d'oeuvres to share.

Now blend those hors d'oeuvres, your family, neighbors and friends with everyone in the welcoming Kirk family. What a great time to introduce your friends and neighbors to our gracious, caring Kirk.

Treble in the Village will present their special seasonal music. This melodious quartet of Kathy Allison, Patty Van Cleave, Sharon Gardner and Kristi Ponder will involve us all in a traditional Christmas Carol sing-along.

The Fellowship and Missions committees have decided to make the Christmas program an opportunity to



Treble in the Village will lead Kirk family and friends in an evening of Christmas carols on Dec. 11. *(Robert Sonnen photo)*

support a local food bank. In addition to an appetizer to share, bring a few canned goods for the Faith Fellowship Food Pantry on Hwy 7 just outside the west gate. This is a wonderful service for those in the community who need a helping hand, especially this time of year.

Sign-up sheets will be available at

Saturday and Sunday services. This will help us know how many for whom to plan. Mark your calendars now! You will not want to miss this.

If you have questions, please call me at 1-706-371-2877.

***Vicki Rosenquist is Moderator of the Fellowship Committee.***



## Kirk PW's Christmas Gathering will be on Dec. 9

By Carol Sue Williams

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Some were fortunate to have spent it with family which makes it special.

December is now upon us. We need to think about the Christmas families each Circle will be adopting. The Kirk PW has always been generous towards these families. I know we will continue to be. The shoe coupons will be arriving and will soon be issued.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Our Christmas Gathering on Dec. 9 is fast approaching. As has been our custom, we will first meet at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary to listen to a message from Pastor Bill Bailey.

We then will gather in Hoffius Hall for another wonderful luncheon prepared by the Greenhorns.

Reservations must be in by Sunday, Dec. 1, and remember – a reservation made is a reservation paid. The cost is \$10 and will be payable at the door on that date.

My tenure as PW Moderator will end Jan. 1. Vicki Rosenquist will take over. I know she will do a wonderful job and continue receiving the support of all PW ladies.

My thanks to all who served as Circle and Bible leaders and in other capacities this past year.

*Carol Sue Williams is PW Moderator.*



## Muses will perform Dec. 14 at Woodlands

For fans of Muses (the classical song-and-dance group which has given free preview performances in our sanctuary), the group is presenting *Voices of Angels, 2019*, a Sacred Classical Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Woodlands.

Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained by calling 922-4231.

**Muses Creative Artistry Project**

## Check us on Facebook

New pictures of church events are posted regularly by Jamie Federick on the Kirk's Facebook page. Be sure to "like us" when you visit.

If you'd like to join Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and choose a username and password. Then look for Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

## Join us for our monthly Sister Circle meeting

By Susan Unger

A time-honored tradition has been given new life at the Kirk. Small groups of women have been coming together around cooking fires and kitchen tables for as far back as any of us can remember, creating a place of connection and community. They gather to share, discuss and explore information in order to grow.

Our new Sister Circle meets each month to discuss a specific topic and touch on personal news such as Joys & Concerns.



We use articles, excerpts from books or short videos for inspiration followed by insightful questions designed to explore topics more deeply.

Our Sister Circle follows and adheres to a statement of purpose and an agenda.

Our first meeting was in September. The main topic of

discussion was an article titled "Seasons of Beauty; Aging Gracefully."

In October we discussed a blog titled, "Why expressing your

creativity is critical to your happiness."

In November we delve into our Maternal Lineage.

In the Sister Circle we seek to explore, as Pastor Bailey describes for us on Sundays, "the things that reside in our hearts more so than what is seen or touched. Things that last and stand the test of time."

We meet at 1 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday each month in Smallman Parlor just outside the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

NOTE: The December meeting will be on the 17th because of the holidays.

*Susan Unger is Sister Circle Moderator/Visionary.*





Kushner Watson is clinical director of Small Group Therapy in Hot Springs. (*Dotty Rector photo*)

## **SGT quietly serves needs of mentally handicapped**

By Dotty Rector

*First of two articles*

Tucked in among various neighborhoods in Hot Springs are homes owned and operated by a little-known agency. This agency has benefited from Kirk mission dollars. It does an incredible service both to its clients and to the community.

It supports a population of adults with serious mental-health issues. They have persistent mental illnesses which families and the community find extremely difficult to cope with. The issues include schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, or other chronic mental disorders. Please note: mental illness and mental retardation are two very different issues.

The agency is Small Group Therapy (SGT). The administration building is on Whittington Ave., near the Arkansas School for Math and Sciences. Housing for SGT's 80 clients are mostly within a five-mile radius of the administration building.

SGT began its program in Hot Springs in the late 1960's, using a new program called the Fairweather Program.



### **A look at our Missions**

The program was developed to provide a great deal of support for men and women with chronic mental illnesses.

They can live outside hospitals or other institutions and be productive in the community in the least restrictive environment. Today, the Fairweather Program is in 16 states. SGT is the only one in Arkansas.

The key to success is the caring staff of psychiatrists, therapists and "qualified Health Providers" (a new Medicaid term), all Arkansas licensed.

A big issue is medication compliance. Others include training in "activities of daily living" such as learning

*Please turn to page 14*

## Activist's words can challenge, uplift and rile you

### **Credo by William Sloane Coffin.**

William Sloane Coffin (1924-2006) described himself as a lover of God and a lover of country.

Those two loves guided both actions and occupation. If actions follow the heart, then William Sloane Coffin's book *Credo* (2004) exposes a life of love and courage. Selections from sermons and speeches are organized into similar topics for a collection comprising words of a life.

This noted preacher and peace activist served his country in military service in World War II and later worked for the CIA. Studies in Divinity at Yale were interrupted during this time but completed in 1956 with William Coffin's ordination as a Presbyterian minister.

Yale asked Coffin to remain on staff as Chaplain, a position he held for 17 years.

Coffin returned home to New York City, the city of his birth, to serve as minister of the prominent Riverside Church in 1977.

The '60s and '70s were a period of civil-rights advocacy and peace activism. Coffin participated as a Freedom Rider in the civil-rights movement of the '60s walking alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King.

After serving Riverside Church for 10 years, Coffin accepted the leadership position of the largest peace and justice organization in the U.S. – SANE/Freeze (now Peace Action). Here are just a few quotes from Coffin that encapsulate his perspective.

"We put our best foot forward, but it's the other one that needs the attention."

## Homes for SGT clients scattered in Hot Springs

### **Continued from page 13**

to cope with their illness, managing medications and interactions with the community.

Added to these are anger management, managing household duties, hygiene, diet, exercise, and current events.

The program treats "the entire person," says Clinical Director Kushner Watson. It is "a plus that we have access to our clients all the time."

SGT provides a range of living accommodations for its clients. They include a residential-care facility providing around-the-clock care. It also has six group homes and 12 small apartments where clients may work in the community.

SGT's services are paid for by Medicare or Medicaid and clients pay a token rent out of their Social Security disability checks. Donations from churches are essential to continue operations.

Kushner Watson said "a lot of people don't know we are here."



### **Carnegie Corner By Susan Morrow**

"It is often said that the Church is a crutch. Of course, it's a crutch. What makes you think you don't limp?"

"To show compassion for an individual without showing concern for the structures of society that make him an object of compassion is to be sentimental rather than loving."

"We are living beyond our moral means. That is the heart of the problem."

"No one need be afraid of fear, only afraid that fear will stop him or her from doing what is right."

After Coffin is told his days are numbered because of a weak heart and using wit and words of insight, he shares his thoughts on the end of life:

"And just as in life, so in death 'nothing can separate us from the love of God.' We may not know what lies behind the grave, but we know who is there."

*Credo* by William Sloane Coffin may simultaneously challenge, rile, and uplift. Come check it out from your church library.

SGT quietly continues to lovingly care for this underserved population. It functions like a family, rejoicing when someone meets his or her goal.

Next month: Part 2 in the SGT report.

***Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.***

## Send us your news

Have some news you'd like to share? Send it to us at [kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net)

Or put it in the Communications mailbox in the hall outside the church office.

Our newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. We'd love to hear from you.



# Jan Holtberg wins top prize at second annual Chili Cook-off

Ten contestants and a crowd of 120 chili lovers made the second annual Kirk Chili Cook-off on Oct. 30 a rousing success.

Each competing cook served a competitor's chili in the serving line to avoid bias. Once the ballots were all tallied, Jan Holtberg walked away with the Gourmet Delight Prize.

While in no way diminishing the luster of Jan's Taster's Choice achievement, it should be duly noted Sharon Hogue personally baked and, with Ruth Richards assistance, displayed all the cakes served as dessert for the event.

Jake Wilson of Texas Presbyterian Foundation delivered an informative presentation on Legacy Planning. He answered questions and had pertinent materials on display for those seeking relevant assistance.

An appropriate SHOUT OUT to all those who contributed to a successful evening – Mr. Wilson, cooks, bakers, servers, diners, set up and clean-up crew.

A word of appreciation to Fellowship Moderator Vicki Rosenquist, who as of the end of the year, will be bring to a close a very successful tenure.



Ken Wolf and Arnie Holtberg (behind Ken) select from chilies served by (back to front) Kelle Wolf, Clark Mowry, Bill Worthley, David Rosenquist, Ruth Richards, Gail Salmen, Jim Reimers, Darell Fisher, Jan Holtberg and Ed Russell. (Story and photos by Lowell Gardner)

Jake Wilson talked about the Texas Presbyterian Foundation's Legacy Planning.



Vicki Rosenquist (far right) giving diners instructions at the second annual Kirk Chili Cook-off.



# Happy dates



## Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries

Dec. 1	Sissy and David Wilson	35 years	Dec. 23	Susan and Bob Morrow	44 years
Dec. 5	Gail and David Salman	49 years	Dec. 28	Sally and Harry Lester	25 years
Dec. 17	Debbie and Jim Cordell	36 years		Edie and Don Loveday	51 years
Dec. 19	Jan and Arnie Holtberg	49 years	Dec. 29	Becky and Harry Wakefield	47 years
Dec. 21	Barbara and Dan Chambliss	2 years	Dec. 31	Barbara and Jerry McAnarney	8 years
Dec. 23	Lorraine and Bob Berry	42 years			

## 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

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)

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[kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net)

