

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIII, Issue 7, July 2017

Rosalyn Halbert is always on the move

If you want to keep up with Rosalyn Halbert, you better wear your track shoes!

Since Rosalyn and husband Jim moved to the Village in 1998, Rosalyn has been one busy lady. Despite the loss of her husband, due to cancer, and her youngest son, she has continued putting her many talents to good use.

Graduating with a B.A. in secondary education from UALR, Rosalyn taught at middle- and high-school level in Little Rock.

She earned credentials from Floral Design School in Michigan and worked as a designer. After attending flower show school, she became a graduate judge for standard flower shows.

Rosalyn, who has belonged to garden clubs in “every state where I’ve lived,” joined the Village Pines Garden Club soon after moving to the Village. She was president of the club for two years and on its board of directors for eight years.

In 2013, she was asked to chair a committee to restore the historic 1890s gravesite in a section of Cortez Road. The club’s original work began in 1995 but hadn’t been maintained.

Rosalyn met with David Twiggs, then CEO of the Property Owners’ Association. He gave permission for the work and offered

help from a POA roads crew.

The renovation was finished in 2015 and won a first-place award for Civic Achievement from the National Garden Clubs’ South Central region.

Another of Rosalyn’s projects was at the Coronado Tennis Center. She landscaped around the Pro Shop and along the road.

As part of Designing Women, a floral design study group which has



Rosalyn Halbert touches up one of the six urns at the Ponce de Leon Center’s porte-cochere she designed and has maintained for 10 years. *(Judy Corwin photo)*

disbanded, Rosalyn designed the six urns in the Ponce de Leon Center’s porte-cochere and has continued the project for 10 years.

Rosalyn’s green thumb can also be seen at the Kirk, where she’s helped the Grounds and Memorial Committee

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
5 p.m. in Hoffius Hall

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



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



Are we growing? Yes, in many ways

Not long ago, someone asked me, “Is the Kirk growing?”

I asked in return, “How do you mean? There are many different ways to grow.”

The person said, “You know what I mean ... I’m talking about membership. Are we gaining members or losing members?” The tone was a little disconcerting, but this got me thinking.

The truth is, the Kirk is losing members. It has been in slow decline since before I came in 2006. At one time (the late 1990s), the Kirk had almost 800 members – enough to inspire this congregation to plant another Presbyterian church (the Woodlands) in the Village.

However, since the early 2000s, there has been a steady, slow decline of membership, from just over 500 in 2006 to 341 today.

Most of these losses have been deaths and people moving to be closer to family. We receive between 10 to 20 new members a year, but this is not enough to offset the 20-25 memorial services we experience each year and the dozen or so other members who move.

Even though we have only lost a handful of “grumpy” folks dissatisfied with the Kirk or the PC (USA) denomination, this trend continues to concern us all.

Fortunately, there are other ways to think about growth. This congregation continues to be generous in its giving. In addition to supporting our staff, facility and mission, the Kirk has received over \$100,000 to its endowments in the last eight months alone.

Members of this Kirk continue to give generously of their time and their talent, volunteering in medical clinics, tutoring students, delivering meals, as well as visiting the lonely and those in homes or hospitals.

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



There’s a long list of Presbyterians who are extremely generous, serving this Kirk and helping those in need.

Beyond these outward criteria of success and growth in attendance, most of us know the real question is always, “Are we being faithful?”

Are we growing in our faith – are we more active in our service, wrestling with deeper questions, praying or studying more?

Are we more committed to following our Lord, even if this means potentially losing members? Sometimes doing the right thing is not the popular thing.

I was given a wonderful needlepoint this past winter. It came during a low point in my personal life, and because I continue to read it almost every time I leave my office, it has meant a great deal to me. It reads: “All you can do is all you can do; but all you can do is enough.”

So, let me ask you, “Are we doing enough?” Are we being faithful to those things that will stand the test of time? Are we giving ourselves to those things that Christ calls us to do?

Will we look back on these days and be proud of the work we have accomplished for the Lord?

Are we growing?



These beautiful prayer shawls, handmade by Kirk members, were on display at the June 11 worship service. The shawls were dedicated by Pastor Bailey and distributed to local hospices by the Congregational Care Committee. *(Robert Sonnen photo)*

Kirk's good volunteer work is recognized

Deaths of Members

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

Billy Allen "Bill" Rich died May 30, 2017, at his home in Hot Springs Village. We celebrated Bill's life at a memorial service on June 9, 2017, at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. Interment will be later.

Robert Aaron "Bob" Rosenthal died June 3, 2017, in Hot Springs. We celebrated Bob's life at a memorial service on June 17, 2017, at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

Church Statistics as of June 14, 2017

Members – 341 Family Units – 230

Child Abuse

Child abuse was discussed at the 135th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock.

It was alarming to hear the number of children who are abused annually in Arkansas. Barron Gage and I were given the following handouts:

Child Abuse (Arkansas Code 12-18-103), Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect Flowchart; Community Resource Quick Sheet, for Child Abuse or Neglect; and First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Arkansas, Policy to Prevent Abuse of Children. These will be reviewed at the August Session meeting.

Kirk Recognized for Outstanding Volunteer Service

In May, the Kirk was recognized by several organizations for support of the community. The church received the following citations:

- State of Arkansas, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, for Outstanding Volunteer Services to the People

Rosalyn is always on the go

Continued from page 1

with landscaping for the last six years.

As a former teacher, Rosalyn's other passion is education. She combined the two in 2001 by organizing a garden study youth program at the Boys and Girls Club. It met every Monday in the summer for three years.

With Rosalyn's help, they became a federated junior garden club and named themselves the Seedlings. In 2003, 19 Seedlings entered a flower show sponsored by

Village Pines. "It was, of course, their first flower show, and the judges were nice and gave many blue ribbons," Rosalyn recalled.

She also tutored first graders in reading. "I had such fun working with those kids."

Rosalyn is co-chair, with Judy Rosenthal, of PEO Chapter CU's scholarship fund to help women who have had to drop out of school complete their education.

So ... when you see special touches of plants and flowers but don't always see the little lady who

The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



of Arkansas, signed by Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas.

- Fountain Lake Schools, Certificate of Appreciation, for Volunteer Services in the 2016-2017 School Year.
- Fountain Lake Schools, Certificate of Appreciation, Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-a-Family Program during the 2016-2017 School Year.
- Fountain Lake Schools, Certificate of Appreciation, All About Kids Food Program and Summer Food For Kids Program during the 2016-2017 School Year.

Take Time to Say "Thank You"

When you see our Session members, stop and say thanks for the jobs they are doing.

They serve as moderators of the committees involved in the many functions of the Kirk. Even more important, the members are committed to making sure the Kirk is a caring community of Christians, committed to faithfully guiding people to Jesus Christ and to sharing the love of God through worship, study, nurture and service to others.



Historic 1890s gravesite in Cortez Road. (Robert Sonnen photo)

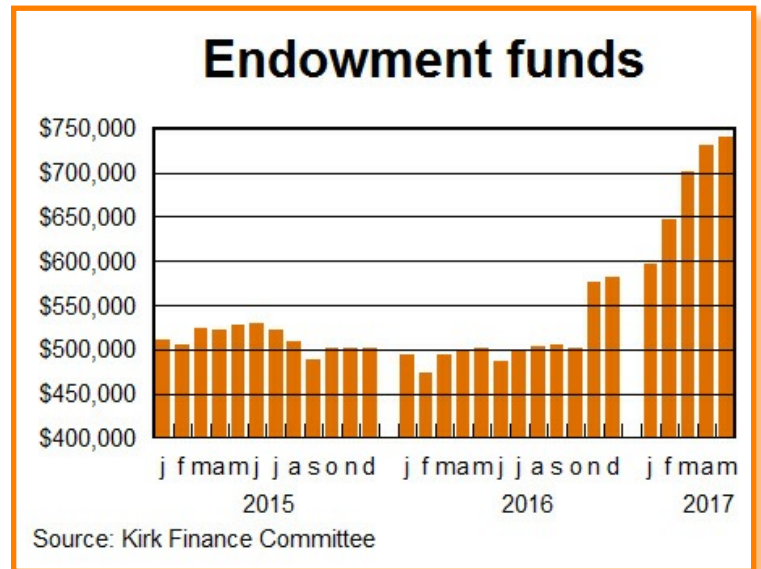
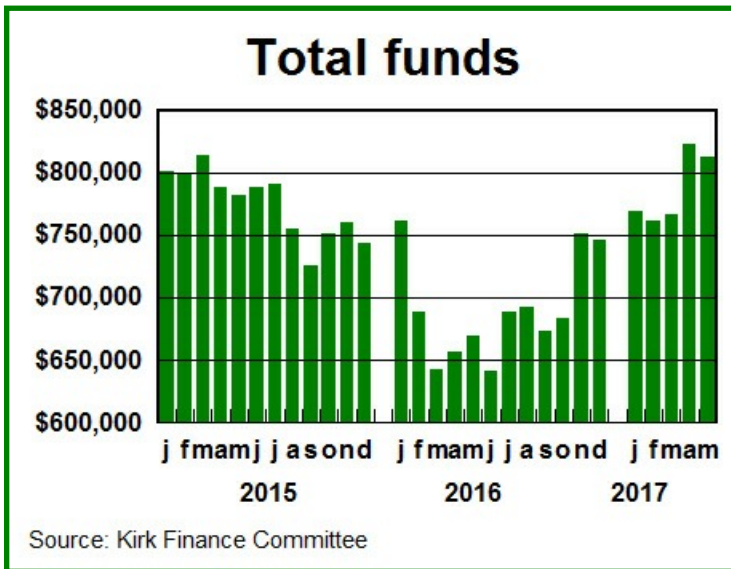
"moves faster than a speeding bullet" ... just know Rosalyn Halbert was here, there, and everywhere!

– Judy Corwin

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of May 31, 2017

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 35,755	\$ 29,089	\$ 178,773	\$ 175,227
Disbursements	\$ 35,755	\$ 42,011	\$ 178,773	\$ 154,027
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,148	\$ 2,965	\$ 20,742	\$ 40,948
Disbursements	\$ 4,148	\$ 9,735	\$ 20,742	\$ 36,894
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 39,903	\$ 32,054	\$ 199,515	\$ 216,175
Disbursements	\$ 39,903	\$ 51,746	\$ 199,515	\$ 190,921
Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				\$ 72,258
Special funds:				
Memorial fund (new)				\$ 40,034
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 80,659
Programs fund				\$ 66,507
Endowment fund				\$ 553,329
Total special funds				\$ 740,529



\$601 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 **\$601** was collected in May.

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.

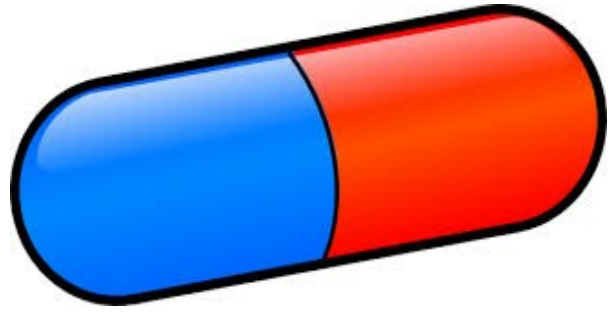
Please wear name tag

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

Need a ride?

If you need a ride to church, call the Kirk office at 922-1333, or Janie Smith at 922-7548. We will happily have someone give you a ride.

Vitality Booster



Just what the doctor ordered!

Are you tired, weary, bored? Do you worry about world events, your health, life expectancy?

Good news! We've got a cure for all of the above and more! It's not a new vitamin pill. It's a Vitality Booster, and it's not found in a prescription bottle.

So what's this about? At the Kirk, we have many happy, busy members volunteering their time and energy on various church committees. You've read about many of them in the Kirk newsletter.

Maybe you've noticed our financial statistics – that's the work of the Finance Committee.

The Mission Committee makes decisions on contributions our Kirk gives to help organizations.

Fellowship Committee plans our church events so we don't have to sit around by ourselves watching television.

Wonder how the ushers manage to pass those plates back and forth among the pews so systematically? How does Communion so magically appear? Well, all of that is taken care of by the Worship Committee.

The Kirk doesn't hire a lawn service to make our gardens flourish – that's the Grounds and Memorial Committee at work.

You get the idea.

If you haven't been on a committee for a while, or maybe you have been with one committee and want to see what's going on in another phase of our church, you need a Kirk Vitality Booster. Our church thrives on our members being active and engaged.

So call this a "help-wanted ad." For your own good and the good of the Kirk, check the list below and find

out what committee moderator you need to contact. As they say in the commercials: "You'll be glad you did."

Session Committees and Moderators

- Administration – Jim Erickson
- Building – Barron Gage
- Communication – Judy Carroll
- Congregational Care – Martha Nielsen
- Education – Pat Kuntz
- Fellowship – Vicki Rosenquist
- Finance – Charles Reece
- Grounds and Memorial – Tom Hayek
- Member Outreach – Katy Hill-Hancock
- Mission – Gary Clark
- Worship – Nancy Patton

– *Judy Corwin*

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.





Kirk members absorb lessons of the Holy Land

From the Sea of Galilee (above) to the Wailing Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, Kirk members wandered the Holy Land in March with Pastor Bill Bailey as their guide.

Tom Hayek, Lowell Gardner, Sylvia Tate, Bob Still (from Hot Springs) and others shared videos and photos of the journey with appreciative Kirk members at a potluck dinner May 18 in Hoffius Hall. They discussed emotional visits to:

- The Church of the Holy Sepulchre (right), which contains, according to traditions dating back to the fourth century, the two holiest sites in Christianity: the site where Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, and Jesus's empty tomb, where he is said to have been buried and resurrected.

- A garden on Mt. Carmel (lower right) where the Discalced Carmelite Order built the priory of Elijah at the site of Elijah's epic contest with the prophets of Ba'al (from the book of Kings). The monastery is on the eastern side of Mt. Carmel, and stands on the foundations of a series of earlier monasteries. The site is held sacred by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

- Bet She'an National Park (below), which houses spectacular ruins of the glory that was the Roman and Byzantine city of Bet She'an. Rising above them is the high mound on which biblical Bet She'an stood.

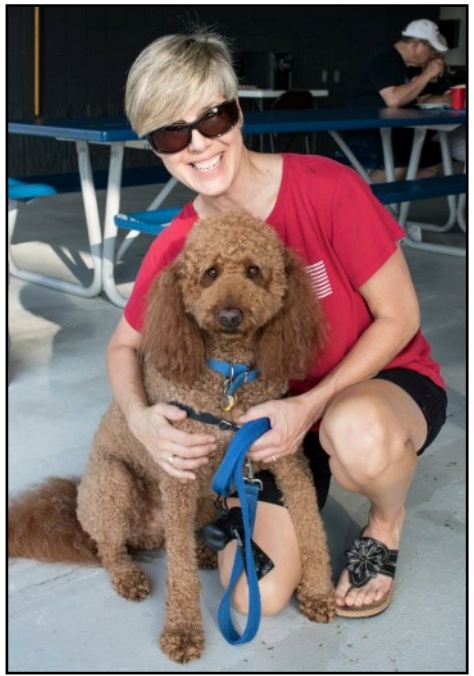


Photos and captions by Cindi Erickson



The Wailing Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem (above) was originally erected as part of the expansion of the Second Jewish Temple begun by Herod the Great. It resulted in the encasement of a natural, steep hill known to Jews and Christians as the Temple Mount. Kirk member Cindi Erickson placed her hand on the wall (right). Below is the Kirk group (and those from a church in Heron, S.D.) in front of the Dome of the Rock, an Islamic shrine on the Temple Mount.





Flags + BBQ shine at Kirk picnic



Flag Day, June 14, provided a patriotic theme for this year's Kirk Summer Picnic. Favorable weather brought a large crowd to the Balboa Pavilion. Several young grandchildren as well as family visitors and two beautiful dogs attended the happy event.

Everyone arrived in patriotic red, white and blue. Some even dressed in flags and with appropriate scarves and shawls complementing their outfits.

Moderator of the Fellowship Committee Vickie Rosenquist served as emcee and invited each table to partake of the delicious barbecue dinner with all the trimmings.

Choir members in attendance led the crowd in familiar patriotic songs. Norm Martin then conducted a quiz pertaining to America and our beautiful flag.

It was a lovely Flag Day spent with our Kirk family.

– Jamie Federick



Photos by Jamie Federick, Rick Federick and Emily Faulk.



Moderator of the Fellowship Committee and picnic coordinator Vicki Rosenquist (left) wore her own flag. Nita (102 years old) and Cal (91) Sloma (below) enjoyed the food and music from the Kirk choir (bottom).





Chris Wilmoth began work as the Kirk's secretary on May 30.
Madelyn Young photo

New secretary on the job at the Kirk

Chris Wilmoth began her new position as Kirk secretary on May 30.

"The congregation has been very gracious to me," Chris said, "and I am extremely honored to have Joyce Leeming as my trainer and mentor."

Chris worked for eight years as church secretary at Faith Lutheran Church before moving to the Kirk. "I loved my job and the congregation, but in recent months, I'd felt led to pursue a new direction."

When she heard the Kirk's secretary might be retiring, she was granted an interview and accepted the position. Her office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

Chris was two years old when her family moved from Mobile, Ala., to Detroit. As a toddler, she was baptized into the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and attended Lutheran schools until the family moved back to Mobile when she was 12 years old.

She graduated from high school and attended one year of college in Alabama. Then she moved to south Mississippi where she completed her second year of college and obtained her first job as church secretary at a Baptist church.

One day, a physician asked her to stop by his office after work.

"I did and embarked on what would be my career – medical secretary – for the rest of my life."

After moving to south Louisiana, she continued as a medical secretary for 30 years.

In 2009, Chris and her husband, also named Chris, moved to Hot Springs Village from Thibodaux, La., which she still considers home.

Chris's husband is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, and is now retired from the Lafourche Parish School System and Nicholls State University. Their daughter is a clinical psychologist working with multi-trauma victims at the Dallas VA Hospital.

The Wilmoths are both animal lovers and have often rescued lost or neglected strays. Now, much of their spare time is spent caring for their four elderly cats. They are thrilled to be "living here in these woods."

"The other day we saw baby foxes right in our own back yard."

– *Madelyn Young*



Joyce Leeming enjoys a moment (left) with Richard McPheters at her retirement party. She was thanked (below right) by Carolyn Starr, Norma Stevens, Marcia Bauer and Norm Martin, and Pastor Bill Bailey (below left). The large crowd enjoyed cakes and coffee. (Frank Leeming photos)

Joyce Leeming thanked for her church service

Kirk members and several guests from the community packed Hoffius Hall after the worship

service June 11 to bid a fond farewell to retiring Kirk secretary Joyce Leeming.

Representatives from Session, staff and presbytery stepped up to the microphone to thank Joyce for her smooth running of the office, her helpful advice and reminders, and her many hours of dedicated service outside regular working hours.

“People have said to me, ‘You have no idea how much time Joyce puts in,’” Pastor Bill Bailey said. “But I do know, and it’s appreciated.”

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You're invited to Kirk golf outing on July 9

Twenty-five Kirk golfers played Isabella Golf Course on a beautiful June Sunday. Dinner after golf at JK's Grill at Isabella was attended by 32 golfers, spouses and friends.

We did not have our usual Games of Skill in June; that was a practice day. Expect to see really Close to the Hole and Long Putt

results in July when Bragging Rights return.

Our next event is July 9. We are scheduled to play Cortez Golf Course with dinner following golf at 5:30 p.m. at Raffaella Rose restaurant at Cortez. Save the day on your calendar.

If you are new to our Kirk or looking for a friendly golf game, we

welcome you. We are a group of single and couple golfers of all skill levels, playing 9 or 18 holes, your choice.

We play our Village courses the second Sunday of each month, April through October. If you would like additional information, please call Jim Hess at 915-0134, or email jimobhess@suddenlink.net

Joyce enjoyed working with Kirk members

Continued from page 11

Moderator of Presbytery Ruth Hamilton contrasted the pastor's job description:

- Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.
- More powerful than a locomotive.
- Faster than a speeding bullet.
- Walks on water.
- Makes policy with God.

... with Joyce's job description:

- Lifts buildings to walk under them.
- Kicks locomotives off the track.
- Catches speeding bullets in her teeth.
- Freezes water with a single glance.

- When God calls, she says, "May I ask who's calling?"

Administration Committee Moderator Jim Erickson thanked Joyce for her willingness to step in when the position became vacant two years ago and for having a plan in place when she decided to retire. "That's how accommodating Joyce is."

"I had no idea when I agreed to temporarily man the secretary's desk that I'd wind up becoming a part of the Kirk staff," said Joyce. "I have to tell you, I've enjoyed every minute of it."

"I'll miss being in the office, but I look forward to seeing you often."

– Judy Carroll

Potter's Clay getting help from Food Basket

During July, 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.

– Gary Clark, Moderator
Mission Committee



PW Coffee Closet will open Sunday, July 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.



Many helped make picnic a big success

A huge thank you to all who helped make our annual Kirk picnic such a success!

The Fellowship Committee did a fantastic job organizing the details and volunteering the time to make this year's picnic a time of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to Norm Martin for being our emcee, our choir members who led us in song, Steve Stevens for the music, all those who helped set up and clean up, and everyone who supported our efforts by attending the picnic.

Vicki Rosenquist, Moderator
Fellowship Committee

Rosenthal family thanks all for support

Dear Kirk in the Pines:

The outpouring of prayers, cards, home visits, hospital and hospice visits, calls and delicious food have provided daily encouragement to me during this time of Bob's illness and subsequent passing.

My family was amazed at the amount of loving support flowing from the Kirk.

They wanted to add their thanks to my sincere thank you to the wonderful Kirk Family for being there for us during this difficult time.



Blessings,
Judy Rosenthal



Joyce loved every day working for members

Dear friends:

Thank you for the lovely cakes, your many cards, hugs and best wishes received at my retirement reception on June 11. I especially appreciate the kind words from Pastor Bailey, Jerral Johnson, Judy Carroll, Ruth Hamilton, Jim Erickson and Janie Smith.

I can honestly say I enjoyed every day spent on staff as Kirk secretary. It was a joy to work with and for the membership and to serve the Kirk in this way. While I will not be working in the office, I look forward to participating in other ways and to seeing you all on a regular basis.

Thank you for your many kindnesses and blessings to you all.

Joyce Leeming

Blessed to have such a caring church family

Heartfelt thanks to those who remembered me with food, cards, phone calls and rides as a result of my surgery.

A special thanks to Ruthie Richards and Ron Lovett for taking me in for surgery and into their home afterwards. I am truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Carol Sue Williams

750 checked out the Kirk's Facebook page

From mid-May through mid-June, 750 Facebook members looked at the Kirk's Facebook posts.

Many people enjoy the Kirk's Facebook page, even though they may not be able to attend church. If you see a post you like, please share it with your friends.



In the same period, there were 989 page views on the website. The average visitor

stayed on the website for three minutes. There were visitors to our website from 32 states: 210 from Arkansas, 12 from Texas, 11 from New Jersey, 6 from California, 5 from Tennessee, and the remainder from other states.

The most popular pages, in order, were the Home page, Newsletters, News and Happenings.

We think the Kirk website is a great marketing tool for those looking for a church home because it lets people know what we are about.

Kathy Edwards feels at home at the Kirk

While not new to Hot Springs Village, Katherine Edwards is new to the Kirk. She moved in 2001 from Gettysburg, Pa., and joined our church family this April.

In Gettysburg, Kathy was acquainted with Mamie Eisenhower, who lived there as well. Kathy was a fashion model, and Mamie liked to closely inspect the outfits Kathy was modeling. Modeling was Kathy's part-time career for over 50 years. She also did office work before retiring and moving to the Village.

As a child, Kathy lived in Texarkana, where her dad was a founding father of Trinity Baptist Church. She has also lived in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Omaha, Neb.

In Sioux Falls, Kathy was a member of the American Baptist Church, and when she prepared to move to Omaha, her preacher advised her to go to a Presbyterian church in Omaha, saying she would



Katherine Edwards joined the Kirk in April. *(Robert Sonnen photo)*

like it better than the Baptist churches there.

Since moving to the Village, Kathy has attended both Baptist and

New member

Presbyterian churches and has lived in two different houses. She downsized to her current home and was happy to find the Kirk nearby. Kathy says she is more at home in the Presbyterian Church and it is more compatible with her beliefs.

Being one of 10 siblings, she has family all over the U.S., including several in Texarkana. A daughter lives in New Jersey, and a granddaughter and great-granddaughter live in Nashville, Tenn. Her 16-month-old great-granddaughter is a delight and can already count to 10.

I know you will want to welcome our newest member when you see her in church on Sunday morning.

— *Barbara Worthley*



Millie Croser and Bev Carpenter with a display of art by Kirk members. Those who took their Decorate Arts Class included Lorna Kerr, Ted Smith, Norma Stevens, Dotty Rector, Helen Van Stone, Pat Kuntz, Bev Raskin and Charlotte Massey. *(Robert Sonnen photo)*



Happy dates



Birthdays

July 3	Kathy Edwards	July 11	Barbara Keegan	July 25	Sally Fink
July 4	Ted Smith	July 12	Horace Shankwiler		Sharon Gardner
July 5	Margaret Boschetti	July 13	Deanna Kincheloe	July 27	Jay Nielsen
	Paul Burpo	July 15	Patty Van Cleave	July 28	Bill Drews
	Lowell Gardner	July 17	Dottie Isaacson		Dick Massey
July 6	Hannah Bailey	July 18	Helen Van Stone	July 29	Carolyn Starr
July 8	Ralph Greene	July 19	Harry Wakefield	July 30	Nell White
July 9	James Knox	July 21	Mac Throckmorton		Gerry Wright
	Jean Mowry	July 24	Gerry Quick		

Anniversaries

July 1	Halene and Bud Strautman	67 years	July 12	Katy Hill-Hancock and Jerry Hancock	26 years
July 6	Anne and Bill Bailey	44 years	July 18	Ruth and Mark Smith	47 years
	Pat and Jim Koller	60 years	July 20	Barbara and Tony Booth	54 years
	Diana and Joe Milligan	33 years	July 22	Jean and Clark Mowry	50 years
July 10	Bernie and Darlene Slater	36 years	July 25	Deanna and Jim Kincheloe	42 years

Summer means special music at the Kirk

Have you been enjoying the special music this summer? Several new groups have formed. It's fun for us to sing with different combinations of voices.

In addition to the solos and groups, we have another treat coming up. The Handbell group will play for us one Sunday in August. You will have to come each Sunday to discover which service they will enhance. You won't want to miss them!

Choir members are now swelling the pews on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, singing among us. Can you tell when there is a choir member sitting behind you? I can.

The Kirk is noted for being a singing congregation.



Choir Notes

Dotty Rector

We sing out for joy. The choir always welcomes new members.

One doesn't have to be a fantastic singer. You continue to learn and improve as you go along. Consider joining us this fall.

– *Dotty Rector*

Next games night will be July 11 in Hoffius Hall; all welcome

Tuesday night, June 6, we gathered for games and goodies in Hoffius Hall. Snacks and refreshments were provided by Bill and Barbara Worthley. LuDean Walston made a delightful cheesecake.

Twenty-one members enjoyed playing Mexican Train and Hand & Foot.

The Games Night gathering for July will be on the 11th, since the first Tuesday falls on July 4. All are welcome!

– *Barbara Worthley*

Book tells how Muslim discovered Christ

Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi ruled Iran from September 1941 until January 1979 when he left the country under political and religious pressure.

He came to power when Great Britain and the Soviet Union – fearing his father, Reza Shah, might side with Nazi Germany – invaded Iran and forced the father into exile. During Mohammad Reza's 39 years in power, Iran marked 2,500 years of continuous monarchy, beginning with Cyrus the Great from biblical times.

Mohammad Reza maintained western leanings from the start, seeking economical, political and social modernization. Unfortunately, he also maintained autocratic rule using the Savak intelligence agency, a “secret police,” to suppress his critics.

When Mohammed Reza left Iran, the Shia Islamic cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power, declaring an Islamic republic on Jan. 17, 1979.

During that turbulent period, the seven-year-old son of an Abadan oil field laborer observed the political and religious unrest from atop the broad shoulders of his father. Afshin Javid was raised a devout Muslim by his politically observant parents and deeply committed grandfather and follower of Allah. The family rejected



**Carnegie
Corner**
By Lowell Gardner

the rule of the shah, believing his rule diminished the long-held traditions of Islam.

Afshin survived a serious illness at an early age, resulting in his parents' pledge to dedicate him to Imam Reza, the eighth imam [holy man] of Shia Islam, thought by Shia Muslims to be second only to Mohammad himself. Under his grandfather's tutelage, Afshin Javid became an unwavering follower of “the great god Allah.”

In that pursuit, Afshin found himself in his early twenties imprisoned in Malaysia. There he discovered Jesus Christ in a dramatic way.

All this is chronicled in *As Easy as Drinking Water: A Muslim Forgiven*, an autobiography now available in our church library.

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 Wilmoth – Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg – Business Administrator

Paul Stivitts – 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 – Judy Carroll, Moderator. Its email address is:

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