

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIV, Issue 1, January 2018

Tom Hayek continues his love for teaching

Tom Hayek was about to graduate from high school when his advisor offered him a scholarship. This unexpected opportunity changed Tom's life.

One of nine children with no financial means to attend college, he had already completed the paperwork to join the military and was waiting for his 18th birthday.

He quickly accepted the scholarship offer and earned both his BA and MA from Illinois State University with a major in Spanish and a minor in French. With this background, it seemed he was destined to teach.

After college, Tom accepted a teaching job in Downers Grove, Ill., in the same county where he was born and raised. He remained there for the next 33 years.

In that period, he sponsored several student trips to Spain and Central America, wanting his students to experience a foreign culture as well as learn the language.

Tom was also asked, along with his teaching responsibilities, to hold the position of head swim coach and co-advisor to the Outdoor Environmental Club.



Tom Hayek with two of his students, Xander Hale and Elijah Bailey-Turner. (Tom Hayek photo)

Tom saw his high-school teaching career as the catalyst which allowed more than a thousand youngsters to learn the values of teamwork, goal setting, helping others and how to prepare for the many challenges they will face in the years to come.

Since retiring to Hot Springs



**The Kirk
in the
Community**

Village, Tom has continued to help high-school students as a volunteer Spanish tutor at

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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

Wednesday Bible Study
9 a.m. in Hoffius Hall.



Thursday Discussion Group
9 a.m. in Hoffius Hall



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



Good news

The magic of Christmas lasts for 12 days

Many of you know this already. On the Christian calendar, Christmas is not just one day. Instead, Christmas is a season lasting 12 days. Dec. 25 is Christmas, and so are the days following all the way until Jan. 6. Of course, we all remember the traditional English song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Jan. 6, for Christians in the west, marks the end of Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany – one of the important dates in our liturgical calendar.

Epiphany marks the visit of the three “wise men” who brought gifts for the king. We know, of course, they were not kings, they were not “wise men,” and we really do not know how many of them came. We assume there were only three because the Gospel writer, Matthew, tells us about three gifts.

Matthew calls them Magi. You may recognize this Persian word as the root of our English word



“magician,” which might give us a hint of meaning.

The best scholarly guess is they were probably educated, perhaps religious astrologers. They

claimed to interpret dreams and stars, and if Matthew has it right, they claimed they followed some sort of star – first to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem.

What makes the Magi especially important in Matthew’s Gospel is their ethnicity. They are gentiles, not Jews. And they come bearing gifts for a newborn Jewish King – something Herod was not able to do. They recognized Jesus’s royalty with gifts, even when others, like Herod, cannot.

Tom Hayek is a teacher and a Master Gardener

Continued from page 1

Jessieville High School. He drives there once a week and meets with as many as eight students a day for four afternoon periods.

Besides focusing on pronunciation and speaking and writing and listening comprehension, Tom also teaches cultural awareness.

“During Halloween we focused on El Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, which pays respect to family members who have died, similar to how Christians in our country recognize All Souls Day and All Saints Day,” said Tom.

One of his students at Jessieville is Elijah Bailey-Turner, grandson of our pastor, Bill Bailey.

Tom is also involved with

The Pastor’ Corner Bill Bailey



The Magi reflect one of the great themes of the Bible: that gentiles are somehow capable of responding to God’s work in the world.

Acting on the signs and wonders in nature, they eventually make their way and acknowledge Jesus is Israel’s true king. Their act of “paying homage” reminds us that Jesus’s ministry will someday embrace all nations.

The Magi represent all of us “outsiders” who now find ourselves worshipping Israel’s king. They are a reminder that in contrast to the violent kingdom of Herod, there is another peaceable kingdom that we are called to follow.

Emmanuel – “God with us” in all of life – is good news for all the world. This is good news for a New Year!

Upcoming holidays

The Kirk office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, to mark the New Year holiday.

It also will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15, for Martin Luther King Day.

Garland County Master Gardeners and the Men’s Village Garden Club, where he serves as vice president, and is grounds moderator at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

Simply put, Tom has devoted his life to teaching and making things beautiful.

– Rick Federick

New Elders taking their seats on Jan. 1

Ruling Elders complete their terms:

Ruling Elders Judy Carroll (Communication), Martha Nielsen (Congregational Care) and Katy Hill-Hancock (Member Outreach) step down after serving their terms. They did an excellent job and are to be thanked for all of their work. Even though they are no longer active Ruling Elders, I am sure they will continue to serve the Kirk in its programs.

Ruling Elders begin new terms:

These new Ruling Elders were installed and ordained at the Dec. 10 Sunday worship service: Sally Fink (Congregational Care), Lowell Gardner (Communication), Harry Wakefield (Member Outreach), Tom Hayek (Grounds and Memorial) and Sharon Gardner (Finance). Sharon Gardner will serve the final two years of Charles Reece's term.

It is with regret that Charles and Betty Reece will return to Tupelo, Miss., after the first of the year. Tom Hayek agreed to serve a second term as Moderator of the Grounds and Memorial Committee. These members will begin their term Jan. 1.

I hope that they will receive support from all members.

New Member:

Don Loveday joined the Kirk of the Pines on Dec. 8. He joins by Letter of Transfer from the Village United Methodist Church, Hot Springs Village.

Members who died in late November and December:

Georgia Tieperman died Nov. 24, in Tucson, Ariz. She will be interred in the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Memorial Garden at a later date.

Gerald Norman Quick died Dec. 5 in Hot Springs Village. He was interred in the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Memorial Garden on Dec. 16.

Member requesting their name be removed from the Kirk's membership roll:

Wanda Lassiter, requested her name be removed from the Kirk Roll. Wanda is moving her membership to Community of Joy Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village.

Death of former Kirk minister:

Reverend W. Guy Delaney passed away on Nov. 17 in Little Rock. He was a minister at the Kirk from May 29, 1988, to April 1, 1993. He served churches in Arkan-

The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



sas, Texas and Virginia. He also served as Director of Education at Union Theological Seminary and for eight years was president of Mo Ranch Presbyterian Assembly in Hunt, Texas.

Church Statistics as of December 16, 2017:

Members – 337

Family Units – 231

All Kirk Dinner:

Make plans to attend the All Kirk Dinner on Jan. 29 at the Coronado Center. It promises to be a lot of fun with great food. Sign-up will begin in January.

Pastor Bailey's classes resume Jan. 10 and 11

The Wednesday and Thursday classes taught by the Rev. Bill Bailey resume at 9 a.m. Jan. 10 and 11 in Hoffius Hall.

The Wednesday morning class, *What Does the Bible Teach About...?*, considers what the Bible says about topics such as marriage, politics, war and a host of other subjects, and how both Jews and Christians have read these texts and applied them to their lives over the years.

The Thursday class, *The Reformation*, continues with its discussion of the history of how Martin Luther and his 95 Theses sparked reform in the church 500 years ago.

Send us your news!

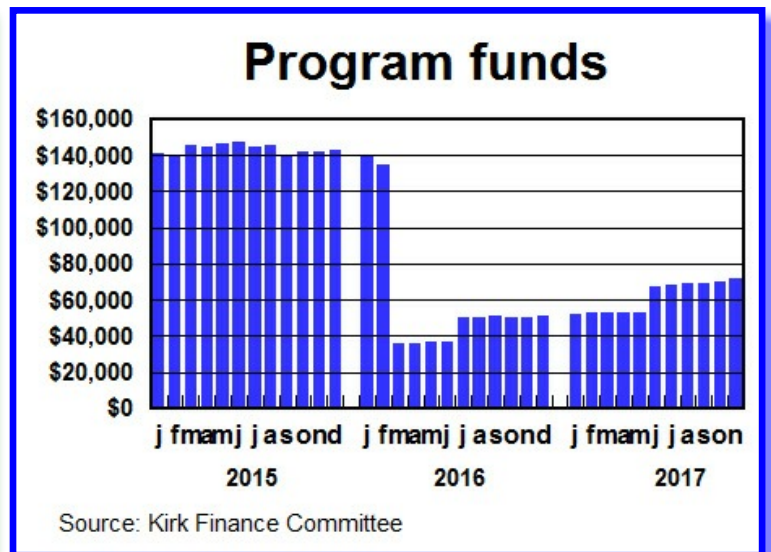
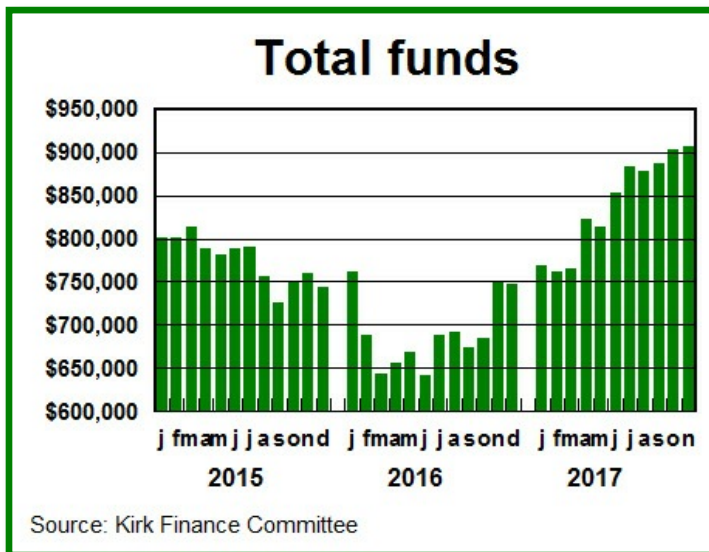
Have some news you'd like to share? Send it to us at: kirkvoice@sbcglobal.net

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

Our deadline is the 15th of each month for the next month's publication. We'd love to hear from you.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report Year to date as of November 30, 2017

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 35,755	\$ 35,614	\$ 393,301	\$ 390,833
Disbursements	\$ 35,755	\$ 40,383	\$ 393,301	\$ 340,214
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,148	\$ 3,231	\$ 45,632	\$ 62,042
Disbursements	\$ 4,148	\$ 7,673	\$ 45,632	\$ 59,492
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 39,903	\$ 38,845	\$ 438,933	\$ 452,875
Disbursements	\$ 39,903	\$ 48,056	\$ 438,933	\$ 399,706
Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				\$ 104,653
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 40,183
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 111,214
Programs fund				\$ 71,496
Endowment fund				\$ 579,089
Total special funds				\$ 801,982



\$569 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of **\$569** was collected in November.

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.



The Kirk's Flower Lady delights in beautifying the Sanctuary

Seven years ago, not too long after joining the Kirk, Sandy Adams became the Flower Coordinator, a function of the Worship Committee. This is a tremendous responsibility and one Sandy embraces wholeheartedly.

She tirelessly sees to it that there is an arrangement of fresh flowers under the cross in the front of the sanctuary every Sunday. One time she even arranged the flowers herself when Nita Sloma called and said she had received fresh flowers in the mail for her 100th birthday and wanted them to be used in church.

"I'm glad I didn't know it at the time, but I found out later that Nita herself was a Flower Show Judge Emeritus. Her compliments about my work were much appreciated and we have been friends ever since."

When Sandy and her husband, Jim, are in California visiting grandchildren, Barb Kalsbeek and others fill in for her. Before she leaves, Sandy gives the order to a florist in Hot Springs – The Arrangement – who deliver the weekly order to the sanctuary on Saturday afternoon.

The bouquets are always very fresh and stay pretty for a week or more.

Each Sunday's donor usually takes the flowers home after the service, and Sandy will take their picture with their camera if they wish. Then she will carry it to the front of the church so they may

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Sandy Adams with one of the many flower arrangements she's placed in the Kirk sanctuary. *(Barbara Worthley photo)*

**Behind
the scenes**





The Elder Class of 2020 was installed at the Sunday worship service on Dec. 10. From left: Tom Hayek, Grounds and Memorial; Sally Fink, Congregational Care; Pastor Bill Bailey; Lowell Gardner, Communication; and Harry Wakefield, Member Outreach. Not pictured, Sharon Gardner, Finance Committee. (*Robert Sonnen photo.*)

Fresh flowers add beauty to Sanctuary

Continued from page 5 transport it home.

Many parishioners sign up far ahead of time for certain dates to commemorate special anniversaries and birthdays. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen in Hoffius Hall.

Don't worry if someone has already signed up for the date you want. Sandy knows how to handle multiple bouquets on the same Sunday.

If you would like to donate flowers, please call Sandy at 915-9006 or sign up on the list. The basic arrangement is \$39 and the rosebuds for grandchildren and great grands are \$10.

Many, many thanks to Sandy Adams for her many years of service in this capacity. When you see her, be sure and thank her personally.

– *Barbara Worthley*

PW Coffee Closet will open Sunday, Jan. 14

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.





Entertainment was provided by Treble in the Village singers (from left) Kay Crews, Kathy Allison, Sharon Gardner and Patty Van Cleve. (Story and photo by Lowell Gardner)

PW Gathering fills baskets, enjoys food, music

Filling holiday baskets for the underprivileged was the task of the Presbyterian Women's Gathering on Monday, Dec. 11.

To encourage and sustain themselves they began with a wonderful luncheon of chicken in delicious sauce, baked sweet potatoes, applesauce and delightful

salad. A cream pie dessert capped off the meal, all prepared by the Kirk Greenhorns.

As an added encouragement and reward for their efforts, the Sweet Adelines quartet Treble in the Village performed beautiful renditions of holiday music. Their selections included the Hawaiian

Christmas greeting *Melikalikimaka*, as well as *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *The Cooking Song*, and *Mary, Did You Know*. Their program ended with *Auld Lang Syne*, to great audience appreciation.

Footnote: All the baskets were completed and successfully delivered.



The Village Big Band will provide musical entertainment at the All Kirk Dinner on Jan. 29.

Time to sign up for All Kirk Dinner on Jan. 29

Mark your calendar for Monday, Jan. 29, and plan to attend the All Kirk Dinner at the Coronado Community Center ballroom.

The evening begins at 5:30 with time to meet, mingle, and enjoy appetizers provided by the Kirk Greenhorns. Dinner is \$14 per person, and will be catered by Daily Dish. A cash bar will be available.

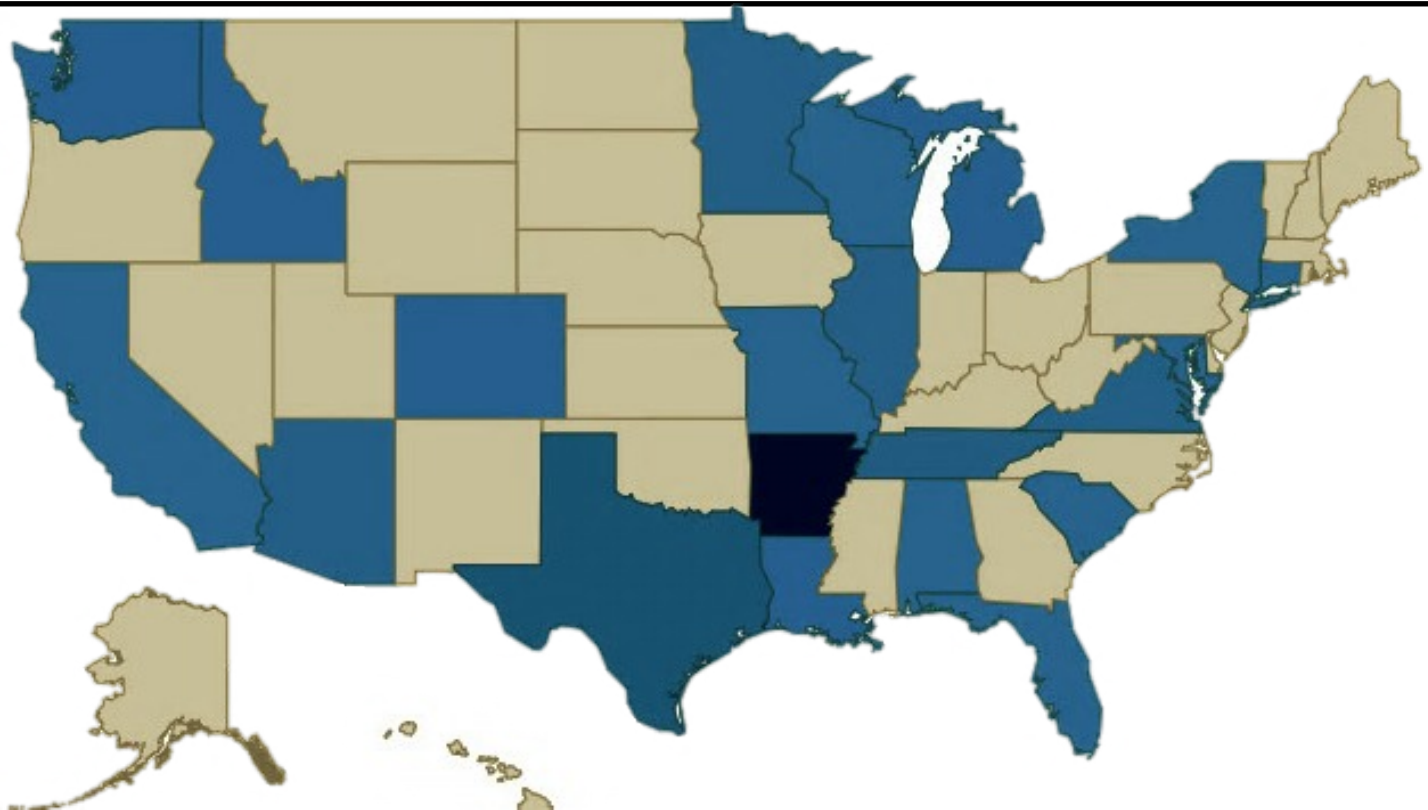
This favorite event promises to be a lovely and exciting evening for all members of the Kirk, with special

recognition of new members who joined the church in 2017, our wonderful Kirk choir, the hard working Shepherd Group leaders, and our terrific staff.

The Village Big Band will provide musical entertainment.

Sign up begins Dec. 30 and 31. If you have any questions, please call Vicki Rosenquist, 706 371-2877.

—Vicki Rosenquist
Fellowship Committee Moderator



The Kirk's website was visited by persons in 22 states and eight foreign countries in December.

Visitors from all over visit the Kirk's website

Google gives us an insight into how many and what kind of visits the Kirk gets on its website.

In December, these are the states with the most visits. There were visits from 22 states. Some were probably from members who have moved away or were traveling. Others (we hope) may have been looking for churches in Hot Springs Village.

<u>State</u>	<u>Website visits</u>
Arkansas	201
Texas	20
Tennessee	8
Virginia	7
Minnesota	6
Arizona	5

These are the countries where visits came from. Granted, some visitors weren't looking for our Kirk in the Pines or Hot Springs Village; but the numbers are interesting anyway.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Visits</u>
United States	280
Canada	14
Philippines	7
China	4
Switzerland	1
Germany	1
India	1
Peru	1

– Ralph Greene

Clip & Save

Phone numbers

For help:

- Kirk office.....922-1333
- Prayer needs (Della Reimers).....915-8235
- Communion at home.....922-1333

To be assigned a Christian friend

- Janie Smith.....922-7548

For meals, transportation, minor house repairs, have someone sit with a spouse:

- Sally Fink.....922-9622
- Janie Smith.....922-7548

To be assigned a phone buddy:

- Judy Pogemiller.....915-0062

For other congregational-care needs:

- Sally Fink.....922-9622
- Kirk office.....922-1333

For staff (home numbers):

- Pastor Bill Bailey.....984-0445
- Elder leader Sylvia Tate..... 870-219-3260
- Visitation Coordinator Janie Smith.....922-7548



June Moore, Ellen Marshall, Martha Wilson, Jim White, Dotty Rector, Gary Rector and Sheri Swan at the Black Sheep dinner.



Sheri Swan (left) visits with June Moore. (Harry Marshall photos)



Host Shirley Siska made plans and provided wine.

Kirk's Black Sheep still doing their holiday thing

Once again the infamous Black Sheep partied. Good Sam proved to be a nice venue. They provided a private dining room, great wait staff and good food. Our numbers are down from the original large Shepherd group which began meeting in 1993. If you forgot who we are, I'll remind you.

Back in the 1990s, the Kirk was much larger and growing. The Shepherd groups had to disband every other year and regroup with new members. This was so we could get to know many of the other members of the Kirk.

Well, our group balked and refused to disband. We did join new groups, as required, but also kept meeting on our own. Along the way we acquired the moniker "Black Sheep." It seemed to suit us.

Members include Jim and Ruth Carpenter, Kari Florey, Mary Ann Krieger, Harry and Ellen Marshal, June Moore, Gary and Dotty Rector, Shirley Siska, Sheri Swan, Jim and Nell White, Martha Wilson and out of town members Bill and Lozelle Ausmann and Sam and Cora Jane Pope.

This year Shirley Siska hosted the party, making plans and providing wine.

A special treat was a champagne toast to Gary Rector, whose birthday fell on the date of the party.

After a couple of hours of catching up, we bid farewell ... until next year.



– Dotty Rector

Here's what happens if the weather is bad

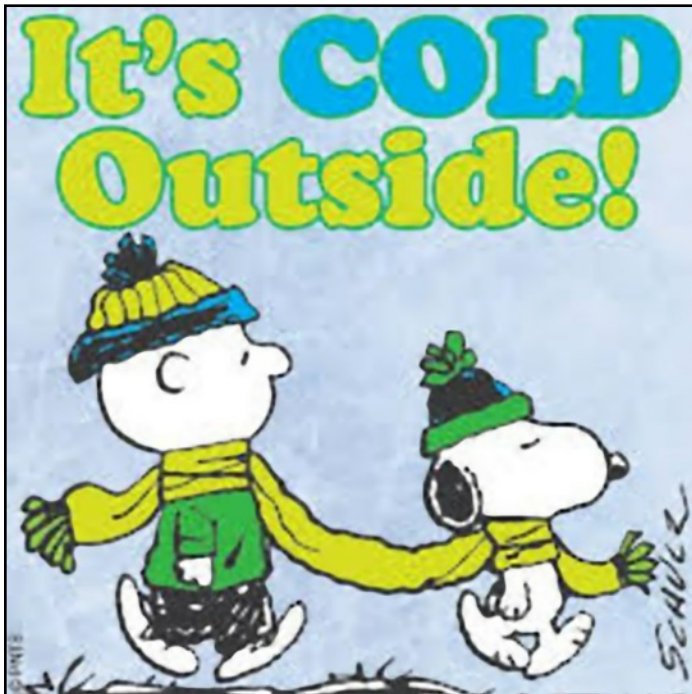
When the weather is really bad, the pastor or the Clerk of Session decide if the church should be closed. They may check with families living near the Kirk and ask how things look.

After a decision is made, they'll contact the church secretary, who will:

- Email information to the congregation.
- Put a message on the Kirk's answering machine.

Sometimes problems near the Kirk may not be known to the pastor or clerk, such as a local power outage affecting the church. Families near the Kirk should inform the pastor or clerk as soon as possible.

If the church is open, members should still make their own decision about whether it is safe to travel.



Don't forget to plan for joining Kirk golf

If you are new to our Kirk or looking for a friendly golf game and would like to join our Kirk Golf Group, we welcome you.

We are a group of single and couple golfers of all skill levels playing either nine 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 me at 922-2326, or email: jimobhess@suddenlink.net

— Jim Hess



Being part of Kirk family is wonderful

A sincere thank you for all your prayers, visits, food and get-well cards. Your concern was very much appreciated during my recovery after surgery.

It is wonderful to be part of the Kirk in the Pines family.

Darlene Slater

Beverly thanks all for the gifts and cards

I would like to thank everyone for their gifts and cards.

It is such a joy to work with all of you and look forward to the new year.

God's love and blessings.

Beverly Schaumburg
Kirk Business Administrator

Jackson House getting help from Food Basket



During January, the Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Jackson House.

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 Jackson House for the work they do, and we thank you for helping them.

— Gary Clark, Moderator
Mission Committee



Everyone was in a festive mood and enjoyed the fun and games at the second annual Kirk Christmas Gathering. (Lowell Gardner photos)

Food, fun and song highlight second gathering

Jerral Johnson, Clerk of Session, opened the Second Annual Kirk Christmas Gathering on Dec. 13 by seeking God’s blessing on the evening, the festivities, the food and those who could not attend.

Over 80 Kirk members laid out a literal smorgasbord of salads, entrées, vegetables, side dishes and finger foods.

That was the first table.

The second table, enhanced with the famous “net stocking lamp” from



the movie *The Christmas Story*, held a variety of desserts. The third and fourth provided, I clearly was assured, “unspiked” punch and other beverages.

Each place setting included song sheets of seasonal lyrics plus a puzzle comprised of the first letter of each word in holiday song titles. There were 20 of these. During the course of the evening individuals and table partners sought to compile a complete list. The ladies’ quartet Treble In the Village provided musical entertainment for the evening.

Following the singing of several Christmas selections, these ladies revealed the puzzle answers. The 12 most successful game players led teams made up of the diners. The quartet then directed them in the song *The 12 Days of Christmas*. By



the way, 18 was the highest number of carol titles that any game player figured out.

The ladies of the quartet rounded out the evening by leading the crowd in a holiday sing-a-long before performing their closing numbers. The diners gave the quartet and the evening a rousing round of applause.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for preparation and clean up.

– Lowell Gardner



Geneva is one of the destinations on Bill Bailey's tour to France and Switzerland next June.

June tour will include visit to Switzerland

With something for everyone and boasting an ideal location in the heart of Europe, Geneva – Switzerland's second-most populous city – offers breathtaking views and a smorgasbord of experiences in a one-of-a-kind natural setting.

Among those notable experiences will be seeing many of the landmarks where over 500 years ago John Calvin was instigator of the Reformation.

In 1536, as a young man, Calvin, fleeing the persecution of Protestants in France, spent a night in Geneva. As it turned out, he was to do a lot more there than sleeping.

After being expelled from Geneva for nearly three years, Calvin returned triumphantly in 1541 to help elevate the city to the rank of a Protestant Rome. He became founder of what became known as Calvinism and was its spiritual leader during his 24 years in Geneva.

Switzerland is known for its fine dining. In Geneva you may savor the delights of favorites

like mouth-watering crepes and Swiss fondue. And, while Swiss chocolate can be bought at any number of specialty stores, it is claimed chocolate at the grocery is just as good for a fraction of the price.

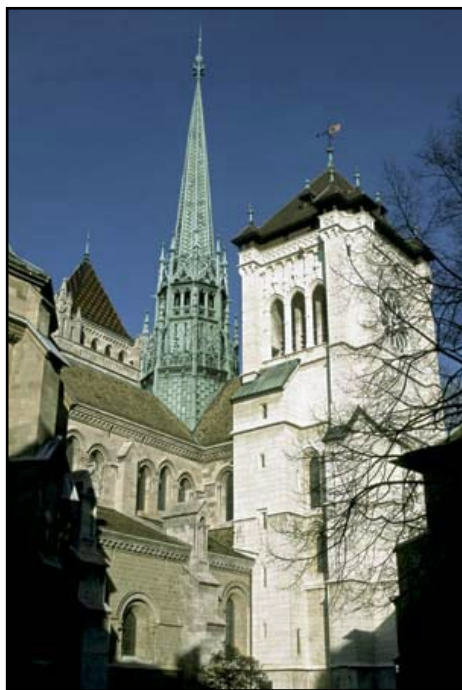
Local wine is particularly inexpensive, and not just drinkable, but quite good. Some say the only reason

Swiss wines are not well known internationally is that the Swiss drink all of it!

It's time to make your reservation to join Pastor Bill Bailey, Kirk members, family, and friends on this memorable trip June 11-22 to France and Switzerland. A detailed itinerary and reservation form is in the brochures found in the brochure racks in the narthex and hallway by the office.

We have an opening for a single male to share a room, and possibly one for a female roommate. Let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

The tour email address is kirktour@gmail.com. Let us know if you would like the brochure emailed to your family and friends. Pastor Bailey will be happy to answer questions or contact Kirk tour coordinator, Joyce Leeming, at 922-0810.



Cathedral of St. Peter in Geneva.

Is your email address current?

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

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

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.

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.



Kirk members Joyce Leeming, Jamie Federick, E.J. Pangle, Jean Fisher and Carol Clark were among 13 Christmas Elves who beautifully wrapped hundreds of gifts for 80 clients at Small Group Therapy in Hot Springs. (*Jamie Federick photos*)

Kirk generosity gives joy to 80 at Small Group

Thanks to the generosity of Kirk members, Kirk Presbyterian Women, the Kirk Mission Committee and Friends of Small Group Therapy (SGT) in the community, Christmas gifts were provided again for 80 men and women residents disabled by mental illness.



For many of those living at SGT, this was the only gift they received. They were so appreciative. Most requests were for clothing, shoes, toiletries and gift cards.

Many thanks also to "Christmas Elves" and Kirk members Gail Salmen, Jean Fisher, E.J. Pangle, Carol Clark, Sally Fink, Carolyn Starr, Martha Nielsen, Emily Faulk, and Jamie Federick for helping shop to fill the 80 wish lists.

Jean, E.J., Carol and Jamie were joined by other Friends of SGT elves to attractively wrap each gift. Shopping and wrapping are big jobs and their thoughtfulness shows in every gift.

Seeing the joy your Christian love and generosity brings each year is a heart-warming experience and makes the effort worthwhile.

On behalf of SGT and the grateful clients, thank you, one and all, for your continued support as a Friend of Small Group Therapy. Blessings and Happy New Year!

– Joyce Leeming

New Year's resolutions go way, way back

Do you make New Year's resolutions? Ever ask yourself why? How did the idea ever get started? How successful are you, or anyone else for that matter, in following through on the ones that are made?

Early accounts indicate that around 4000 BCE (Before Common Era) in Mesopotamia, worshipers of the ancient god Marduk would celebrated the festival of Akita. As an agrarian society this was in April/May and marked the upcoming growing season. This would be their "New Year."

As a part of their religious celebration, the king and his subjects would make extensive gifts and lifestyle promises to Marduk and other gods to assure a bountiful harvest.

It might also be noted that the root of our English word "resolution" is derived from the Latin *resolutus*, referring to being untied, loosened or of a loose structure. It could also refer to morally lax.

In English it became associated with breaking something into parts in order to arrive at the deeper meaning.

Therefore a resolution involves evaluating that which confronts you that you might understand the "why of it" before deciding when and how to change it.

Smaller, measurable goals are more reasonable to achieve.

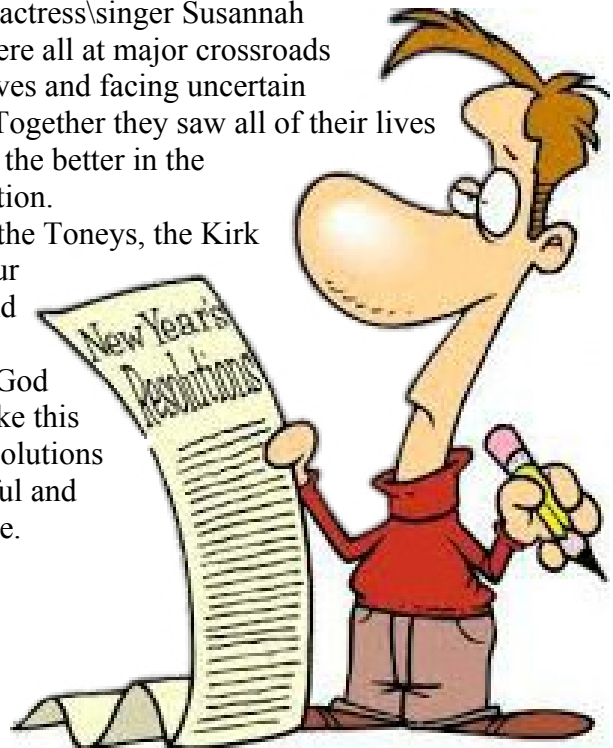


Carnegie Corner
By Lowell Gardner

Thanks to the generosity of Randy and Donna Tony, we now have in our Kirk library the material they used to conduct their delightful seminar on the oratorical *Messiah*. Included is the DVD depicting the people and events leading up to initial creation and production of this inspiring piece of sacred musical literature.

George Frederic Handel, the musical composer, Charles Jennens, the compiler of the selected sacred texts and actress/singer Susannah Cibber were all at major crossroads in their lives and facing uncertain futures. Together they saw all of their lives altered to the better in the collaboration.

You, the Toney's, the Kirk family, our library and our gracious God could make this year's resolutions meaningful and achievable.



Ladies vow to get even at next Games Night

On Tuesday night, Dec. 5, the Games Night Shepherd Group gathered in Hoffius Hall for the Christmas Potluck supper.

The meat dishes were prepared by Barb and Walter Fuquay and John and Lois Dykstra. Everyone else brought side dishes, salads and

desserts. A very enjoyable and delicious feast was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, the games began!

There was a fast-paced game of Mexican Train as well as a competitive game of Hand and Foot, which was won by the men this

time, with the ladies vowing to "get even" next month.

The next gathering will be Jan. 2. We always meet on the first Tuesday night of the month. All are welcome and invited to come to Hoffius Hall at 6:30 p.m.



Happy dates



Birthdays

Jan. 1	Wayne Copeland	Jan. 9	Mike Carpenter	Jan. 22	Jerral Johnson
Jan. 2	Jerry Carroll	Jan. 10	Priscilla Hayek	Jan. 25	Linda Hommemma
Jan. 3	Dot Stroupe	Jan. 12	Debra Cordell		Halene Strautman
Jan. 4	Jeanne Lowenthal	Jan. 14	Karen Ammann	Jan. 30	Connie Stewart
	Martha Parry		Darell Fisher	Jan. 31	Marcia Bauer
Jan. 6	Don Elsenheimer	Jan. 17	Jane Harless		Emily Faulk
	Marsha Huff	Jan. 18	Ted Sampsel		
Jan. 7	Suzanne Larsen	Jan. 20	Betty Reece		

Anniversaries

Jan. 3	Dotty and Gary Rector	37 years	Jan. 23	Jean and Darell Fisher	58 years
Jan. 16	Helen and Don Van Stone	58 years	Jan. 26	Marty and Art Volkema	61 years
Jan. 23	Cynthia and Jim Chaffin	65 years			

Join the Kirk Choir

Singing is such a joyous expression of love for our Savior



Choir Notes

Dotty Rector

Do you have New Year's resolutions?

We hope one of them will be to think about joining the Kirk Choir.

We want you. We know a couple of you are close to committing. We think there are others of you secretly hoping to be invited. Well, consider this to be your invitation.

Our rehearsal time has changed to 3-4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. This allows us to get home before dark.

Check us out!

How to help Kirk and your tax bill

Welcome to 2018! How fast time seems to fly the older I get!

I had a meeting with my financial advisor and he gave me a good suggestion I would like to pass on to you.

If you have a traditional IRA, you can have your administrator send a check directly to the Kirk without going to you first. The benefit: The amount withdrawn does not have tax taken out so the Kirk gets the entire amount.

How does it help you? It lowers your taxable income if you normally withdraw the money and then give to the Kirk. With a direct transfer there is no tax. Below is an explanation. Check with your advisor to assist you. That's what I am going to do this year!

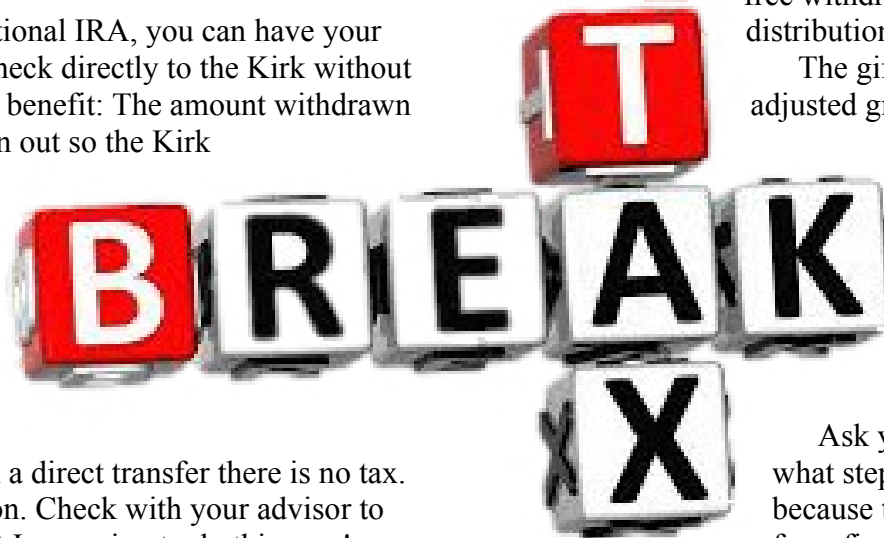
People older than 70½ can transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their traditional IRAs to Presbyterian Kirk in

the Pines, which can count as their **required minimum distribution** but is **not taxable** if they follow the rules for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). (This doesn't apply to a Roth IRA, which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions.)

The gift stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. It doesn't count as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first and then make a donation to the charity.

Ask your IRA administrator what steps you need to take, because the procedures can vary from firm to firm.

– *Sharon Gardner*,
Finance Moderator



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Sylvia Tate – Elder Leader, Informal Worship
Randy Toney – Director of Music
Donna Toney – Organist/Pianist
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