

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVI, Issue 1, January 2020

In retirement, Anne Bailey returned to one of her early passions

By Lowell Gardner

Anne Bailey proved to be one of the most fascinating self-proclaimed “not very interesting” individuals I’ve had occasion to interview.

Raised with two sisters and one brother in Conway, Ark., by an artistic mother and avid, gifted golfing father, she entered the medical field as an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) after one year of college. Following a dating

experience that began in grade school, ebbed and flowed not unlike waves lapping the ocean shoreline, Anne married that now aspiring Baptist preacher who was between his sophomore and junior years.

Placing her medical career on hold, Anne and Bill commenced to create a family of four children – Martha, Ben, Rebecca and Hannah. As Bill completed his

education, Anne maintained a home and raised the children while being soulmate to Bill. This included a three-year stint in Germany.

Arriving in Florida, Anne and Associate Pastor Bill Bailey purchased their first house, a bright red fixer-upper. While Bill painted the outside white (to the applause of neighbors passing by), Anne witnessed



Anne Bailey’s quilt was a gift to her grandson Elijah. (Anne Bailey photo)



replacement of the obsolete knob-tube wiring and thought, “I can do that.”

She read a book, made a plan, drew a diagram, was granted a permit, secured the correct materials and rewired their old/new home.

Meanwhile, she completed her BA degree and was granted an RN license. “Educate four bright children on a preacher’s salary! I think not.”

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Wednesday Bible Study
9 a.m. In Hoffius Hall



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

Thursday Discussion Group
9 a.m. in Conference Room

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



New year, new beginning, and God is still with us

Traditionally, the New Year is a time to make a fresh start – to let go of past mistakes and try to make positive changes in our lives.

Some of us create lists of New Year's resolutions. Others simply use the occasion to focus on one area of growth – perhaps to begin an exercise program, or read more, or eat less, or whatever.

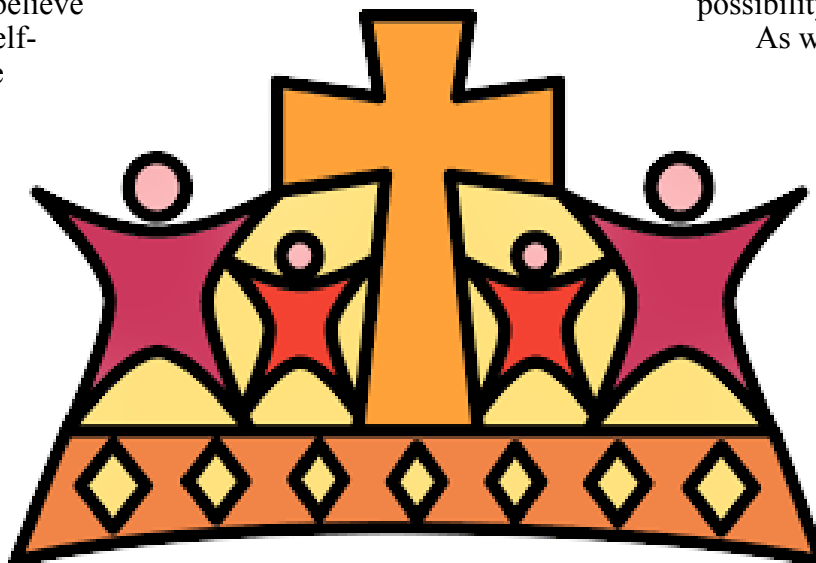
Excited about the prospects of a new year, many of us feel the need to try and improve our lives.

Of course, most of us know what happens to “good intentions.” I once read that almost 80 percent of New Year's resolutions are broken within the first week, and of those who break their resolutions, only 40 percent try again to keep them.

Because breaking old habits can be very difficult and frustrating, sometimes we become too discouraged to try again.

As people of faith, we believe life is more than simply self-improvement. We believe God is also at work transforming and shaping our lives. We believe that, if God has his way with us, we are continually being made into Christ's likeness.

St. Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;



everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.” (II Cor.5:17)

With God, there is always the possibility of a new beginning. More than self-help, there is God's promise of forgiveness and renewal. There is the renewing presence of the Spirit, so that each day provides the possibility of a new beginning.

As we look to this New Year, let us continue to trust in the transforming mercy and grace of our God. This God, who has been faithful in the past, will continue to give us hope as we face a new year.

Come what may, God is with us, drawing us ever toward the Kingdom. God's grace will be sufficient for the year ahead and we need not be afraid.

Anne Bailey eases out of nursing into retirement

Continued from page 1

There is much more to this story, but that's for another time.

Now we come to Anne's retirement. Now what? Nursing is vital but very hard work. Back and knees pay a price. Year 65 was upon her.

Many years before, Anne's first toy sewing machine had created a passion. As she grew older and admired a new style, her mother would respond, “We have a similar pattern at home and with the right material ...”

By high school, Anne was creating her own clothing. This translated well as a homemaker.

As an accomplished water-color artist Anne's mom conveyed to Anne a deep and lingering appreciation for

the beauty of life. Anne's travels exposed her to tapestries, stained glass and intricate architectural patterns. She has always been attracted to the colors, stories and patterns in quilts.

So her first goal in retirement is to make quilts for her children and grandchildren.

Her commitment to Christ occurred in the ninth grade. The expression of her faith during retirement will be in part by creating and donating quilts to needy individuals and organizations.

Perhaps Anne Bailey has designed her retirement her entire life.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

Concerts galore to fill the Kirk in coming months

Church Statistics as of Dec. 13, 2019:
Members – 300
Family units – 204

I regret to report the death of Norman K. Martin. He passed away on Dec. 10, 2019. Memorial service and reception were on Dec. 14 at the Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church.

Sylvia Tate has joined the First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro, Ark. She is a member of the PW and is singing in the choir. She has been approached about serving on the Session. Sylvia also preaches on the third and fourth Sunday each month.

The Jonesboro church was her original church home, but she misses her Kirk family. I believe that although Sylvia has gone back home, she has not slowed down. I know we all wish her well as she continues to work in spreading the Lord's Gospel.

Many of you will remember Debbie and Jim Cordell. They are now members of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Houston. Debbie says that they still have a lot of friends in the Kirk.

When she was a member here she was active in many Kirk activities and the Arkansas Pilgrimage.

Time really flies. Debbie reports that within the next three months Jim will turn 100. I wish them well as they continue their life in the Houston area.

On Dec. 8, the choir presented an excellent program of Christmas music from around the world. It was enjoyed by all.

On Dec. 11, the Fellowship Committee sponsored the annual Christmas Program at the Kirk. The group Treble in the Village provided the entertainment. Those



attending were asked to bring a hot appetizer and a can of non-perishable food.

There will be a concert Jan. 12 sponsored by the Hot Springs Music Festival and the HSV Symphony Guild. Arkansas Symphony Concertmaster Kiril Laskarov will present a recital followed by a reception in Hoffius Hall.

Everyone is invited to this free concert and encouraged to bring a friend.

On April 24, the Village Big Band and the Men's Chorus will present a concert in the sanctuary as part of the Village's 50th anniversary celebration. Money raised from this event will support a deserving college student.

The Kirk will again host the University of Ozarks Chamber Singers. They will present a concert at 3 p.m. Friday May 22, in the sanctuary. A reception will follow.

All of this music is in addition to the outstanding music we are privileged to hear each week.

Do you like to hammer nails and sawing big boards into smaller boards? If so contact Harry Wakefield, Moderator for the Mission Committee. In the next year the Kirk will be part of a group working with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the Hot Springs area.

Stock donation another way to make Kirk pledge

By Sharon Gardner

Can I donate stock to the Kirk for my pledge?

Yes. If the stock has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying the capital gains tax by donating the security to another party.

When the security is being donated to a charitable organization, the total amount will still be eligible for a tax deduction.

Kirk in the Pines has established an account at Wells

Fargo. Stocks may be transferred to the Kirk account. Wells Fargo will sell the stock transferred to the Kirk account and send the money to the Kirk.

This saves the donor taxes on the donation. You can donate up to \$100,000.00 a year. Contact your financial advisor for more information on this.

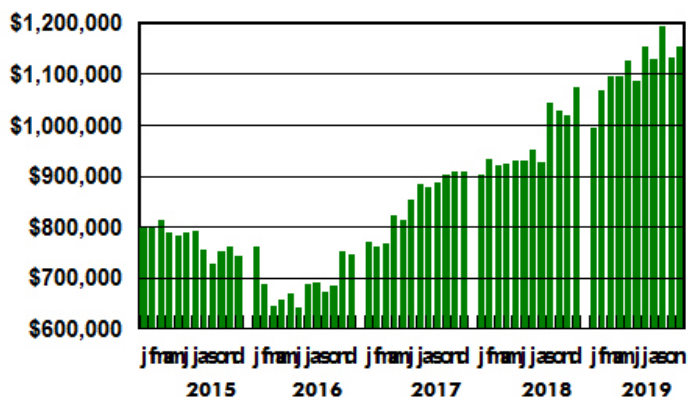
Sharon Gardner is Moderator of the Finance Committee.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of November 30, 2019

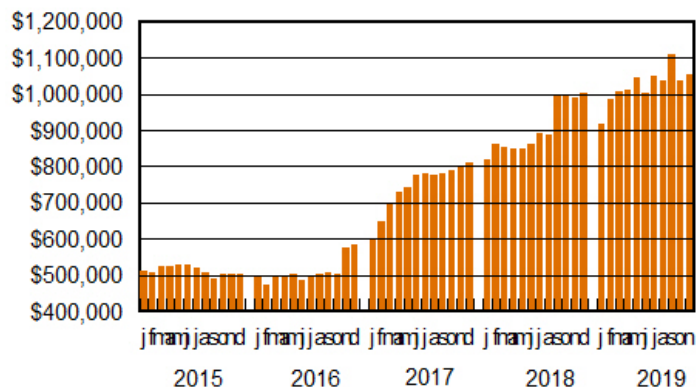
	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 35,495	\$ 30,443	\$ 390,450	\$ 385,364
Disbursements	\$ 36,529	\$ 35,545	\$ 401,821	\$ 345,264
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,246	\$ 3,491	\$ 46,708	\$ 44,073
Disbursements	\$ 4,246	\$ 3,394	\$ 46,708	\$ 46,295
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 39,741	\$ 33,934	\$ 437,158	\$ 429,437
Disbursements	\$ 40,775	\$ 36,939	\$ 448,529	\$ 391,559
 Checking and Money Market Funds Balance				 \$ 99,988
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 59,506
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 246,926
Programs fund				\$ 52,368
Endowment fund				\$ 636,553
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 59,343
Total special funds				\$ 1,054,696

Total funds



Source: Kirk Finance Committee

Endowment, program funds



Source: Kirk Finance Committee

\$502 for Mission

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

A total of \$502 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 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.

New elders installed as members of Kirk Session

By Lowell Gardner

Four new elders were installed Dec. 15 for three-year terms in the 2020 Session of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

They are Tony Booth, Moderator of Administration; Arnie Holtberg, Moderator of Finance; Ruth Richards, Moderator of Fellowship, and Harry Wakefield, whose current position as Moderator of Missions is extended for three more years.

Holtberg and Richards have never served as Presbyterian Ruling Elders. The installation, part of the Sunday worship service, was for them an ordination, a unique, lifetime “setting apart” for service. They will all assume their full duties on the first day of the new decade.

At the installation service, the newly elected were asked to stand in a line left of the pulpit. Pastor Bill Bailey addressed a series of questions, phrased as pledges, reflecting their commitment to serve Jesus Christ and strive toward the spiritual enrichment of the Kirk congregation, individually and corporately.

This is to be done by personal service and example. Clerk of Session Jerral Johnson sought and received a positive response from the congregation in a pledge to support the new Session members in cooperation and prayer.



Pastor Bailey leading the installation ceremony.



Active and inactive elders gather as Pastor Bailey prayed for the new leaders. (Jamie Federick photos)

After receiving affirmative responses, Pastor Bill invited all active and inactive elders to join the newly chosen at the front of



New elders are (from left) Ruth Richards, Tony Booth, Arnie Holtberg and Harry Wakefield.

the sanctuary. What ensued was a moving experience as each individual laid a hand on a newly installed elder or adjacent person and bowed their head in prayer reflective of the great cloud of witnesses portrayed in the twelfth chapter of the New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews.

A debt of gratitude was expressed to those who completed and then vacated their active posts so others could take up the challenge: Jim Erickson, Sharon Gardner and Vicki Rosenquist.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

Peggy Sowers' knitting goes to Mountain Pine

By Susan Morrow

When Kirk member Peggy Sowers' exceptionally crafted knitted items were seen two years ago by the Mountain Pine school administrators, they asked if she was interested in providing hand-knitted items for school children.

She answered "yes" and has since then provided somewhere around 100 hand-knitted hats, mittens, scarves and Scrunchies for students in the Mountain Pine School.

When I asked why she is involved in this particular project, she replied in her straight-forward, no-nonsense manner: "There is a need. I have been involved in charity work all my life and I like to knit and crochet. I want to be useful. I am no wimp."

In spite of advancing deafness and the loss of loved ones, she finds purpose and usefulness with what she can offer.

"I could not do it without the care, cards, meals and prayers of the Kirk community," Peggy says. "They have my back."

Peggy's pattern for each hand-knitted item she lovingly creates varies, but always includes a positive thought the recipient will receive warmth and comfort. The children love these items – a special gift just for them!

Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.



Peggy Sowers working on another gift for a student at Mountain Pine School. (Susan Morrow photo)

Kirk joining a new Habitat construction project

By Harry Wakefield

In early 2020 Kirk in the Pines will join 11 other Hot Springs area churches to build a new home for a deserving family.

Under the Garland County Habitat for Humanity Apostles' Built Program, the 12 churches or religious entities donate \$5,000 each in addition to volunteer labor to complete the task.

After an extensive screening process, the new homeowners will be qualified to buy the home with a no-interest loan. The family will also provide 300 manhours of "sweat-equity" in the project.

The project offers Kirk members an opportunity to volunteer labor-hours in the form of construction, landscaping, mentoring, or clean-up. This may also offer fellowship, service and a form of worship.

For more information, go to garlandcountyhabitat.org. For more on how you can participate, contact me at harrywakefield@att.net.

Harry Wakefield is Moderator of Missions.



Missions Committee member Ken Wolf, Director of Habitat for Humanity for Garland County Cindy Wagstaff, Kirk Missions Moderator Harry Wakefield and Director of Communications Dennis Cooper at a check presentation ceremony.



Carolyn Kane and Barbara Keegan bowed heads over creatively decorated table as Fellowship Moderator Vicki Rosenquist gives the Thanksgiving blessing. (*Lowell Gardner photo*)

Thanksgiving diners get their fill at the Kirk

By Lowell Gardner

Seventy Thanksgiving dinners prepared by Daily Dish Catering were ordered to satisfy the needs of the diners gathered in Hoffius Hall for the traditional Thanksgiving holiday feasting on Nov. 28.

This also included those take-out dinners that were picked up or delivered for home enjoyment.

Two meats, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, candied yams, green beans in sauce, cranberry sauce and jelly, rolls, butter, coffee, ice tea and water were brought individually to the seated guests by Fellowship Committee members and volunteers.

Those who could still actually get out of their chairs after all that had the choice of pumpkin or pecan pie.

Some followed the time honored practice of eating dessert first.

Conversation flowed freely between bites as Kirk family, friends and invited guests shared fellowship, told stories, commented on the good food, recalled Thanksgivings past and acknowledged one more year of our God's goodness.

Commencing at 1 p.m. with the Lord's blessing on the feast by Fellowship Moderator Vicki Rosenquist, the clean-up crew turned off the lights and locked the doors before 4 p.m., table cloths under arm to launder at home.

Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

PW members enjoy great food and holiday music

By Vicki Rosenquist

The PW Christmas Gathering on Dec. 9 was well attended. More than 50 ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the Greenhorns. They were richly inspired by the beautiful voices of Treble in the Village who harmonized on a medley of six popular seasonal songs and traditional carols.

Pastor Bailey stumped us all with a Christmas test about Jesus's birth. Ask one of the ladies about that and how well they did.

In January, PW is returning to our regular circle meetings. I encourage all women of the church who haven't joined a circle to visit one or all four of our circles. You

might discover there's a place for you.

Safe travels to those who are still out of town. We look forward to seeing everyone involved in January and throughout the New Year – 2020.

Vicki Rosenquist is Moderator of PW.



The Portugal/Spain tour group near the La Sagrada Familia Basilica begun in 1882 by Antonio Gaudi in Barcelona, Spain. It is still under construction. (Tom Hayek photo)

Tour group savoring memories of Spain, Portugal

The tour group is safely home from its 11-day trip to Portugal and Spain.

The group found the experience colorful, exhilarating and informative. All that is left to do is organize pictures, edit their journal, savor their memories and recover from jet lag.

We who remained at home balance our envy with a deep gratefulness for their experience and their safe return.

Those who completed the journey were:

Bill, Anne and Hannah Bailey (Hot Springs Village), Marilyn Avinger (Hot Springs and Arizona), Taryn Bailey (Little Rock), Debbie Cordell (Houston), Arnie and Jan Holtberg (Hot Springs Village), John and Jill Kelly (St Johns, Fla.), Jade Reitman (Hendersonville, N.C.), June Whitney (Hot Springs Village), Charles and

Betty Reese (Tupelo, Miss.) and Bob and Susan Morrow (Hot Springs Village).

Richard and Sheree Niece (Hot Springs Village), Stan Luczkowski and Katy Hill (Hot Springs Village), Shirley Siska (Hot Springs Village), Dorothy Bodine (Hot Springs Village), Marcia Bauer (Hot Springs Village), Corrine White (Hot Springs Village), Darlene Filley (Hot Springs Village), Diane Brixius (Hot Springs Village), Mike and Robin Morrison (Hot Springs).

Sharon Collar (Hot Springs Village), June Moore (Hot Springs Village), Tom and Priscilla Hayek (Hot Springs Village), Ron Lovett and Ruth Richards (Hot Springs Village), Marilyn Miller (Farmington, Utah), Carol Sue Williams (Hot Springs Village), Barbara McCracken (Las Vegas), Linda Trench (Queen Creek, Ariz.). Martha Smither (Hot Springs Village) and James and Gay Lewis (Reston, Va.)

Dedicated SGT staff has cut hospitalization rates

By Dotty Rector

Second of two articles

Small Group Therapy (SGT) is a Hot Springs nonprofit agency striving to meet the needs of the chronically mentally ill in a supportive, therapeutic environment. Of vital importance to SGT's success is the staff providing the much-needed services.

Holli Haynes Browning (LCSW), director of SGT, grew up in Hot Springs observing the deep involvement of Dr. Danny and Patsy Haynes, her parents, in local charities and mission work.

Holli's first mission trip to the mountains of Honduras when she was a senior in high school convinced her she wanted a career helping others.

She graduated in 2001 from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock with a Masters of Social Work degree. She spent 14 years working with and advocating for adults with serious mental illness, primarily schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. She has worked at SGT for five years.

Holli oversees all administrative and clinical services at SGT. There are 45 full-time, part-time and PRN staff and 13 properties, including 86 residential beds, in Garland County.

SGT's mission is to improve the quality of life for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, providing superior integrated behavioral health services.

The primary focus of all staff is caring for the clients they serve.

"They chose this field because of their passion for the work," Holli said. "They find value in it."

She feels the supervisors who assist in her efforts are amazing.

One main staff goal is reducing client hospitalization by improving their stability. SGT has been able, over the last five years, to decrease client hospitalizations by 56

Jackson House getting help from Food Basket

The Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Jackson House in January.

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



Holli Browning, director of Small Group Therapy in Hot Springs.



A look at our Missions

percent. This translates into reducing their client's days hospitalized by 77 percent.

Consider this: Without SGT, their clients would likely be homeless or in jail.

Holli likes her work at SGT. She's had a long time to work with clients, to develop relationships, and to treat them like family. Though Holli now assumes an administrative role, she remains close to the clients.

"Mental illness is on the low end of the totem pole" in government funding, Holli said. "Cut, cut, cut."

Something happens – hospitalization rates for mental illness go up. Then services SGT provides may benefit financially. After that, the "low end" syndrome slips in again.

Arkansas began the Medicaid Transformation. SGT had to move to a managed-care program to reduce costs. For Holli, it is a battle to keep the agency in the black and preserve needed services.

The Kirk can help Small Group Therapy by providing financial assistance. Some of our donations provide Christmas gifts for clients, many of whom have no other family. Joyce Leeming headed up the Christmas Elves gift fund for many years and said: "It is the highlight of the year for the residents."

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

Arkansas Symphony concertmaster to play at Kirk

By Jan Holtberg

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra violinist and concertmaster Kiril Laskarov will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, in the Kirk sanctuary. With Jason Pennington-Saughey at the piano, Laskarov will perform the Edward Elgar *Sonata for Violin and Piano Op. 82*. The concert will be followed by a reception in Hoffius Hall.

Laskarov has served as the concertmaster of the Arkansas Symphony for the last 21 seasons.

He was born in Bulgaria, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the State Academy of Music in Sofia and a Master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. In addition to his orchestral and solo appearances with Arkansas Symphony, Laskarov has appeared as a soloist with symphony orchestras throughout the United States.

Pennington-Saughey is the associate director of music at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock.

The concert is sponsored by the Hot Springs Music Festival and the HS/HSV Symphony Guild.

For more than 20 years, the festival has paired world-class mentor-musicians from major orchestras, chamber ensembles and conservatories with especially talented pre-professional apprentices, all of whom receive full instructional scholarships.

The two groups play side-by-side, performing a wide orchestral and chamber repertoire. For two weeks each summer, the musicians play in a variety of non-traditional venues throughout the Hot Springs area.

The Symphony Guild is in its 33rd year. Its mission is three-fold:

- They present and foster an appreciation for fine music in the community by presenting concerts throughout the year and by supporting organizations that do the same.
- They support the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.
- They support and encourage music education for young people in the greater Hot Springs area – presenting a Children's Concert, providing scholarships for music majors to pursue their dreams and for younger musicians to attend summer music camps, sponsoring an apprentice at the Hot Springs Music Festival, presenting music workshops in local schools, and purchasing musical equipment for K-6 classrooms.

In January 2016, I and others had the pleasure of hearing Laskarov play the *Concerto in e* by Felix Mendelssohn with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. He played the Concerto on one of the finest violins in existence, a 1712 'Le Brun' Stradivarius violin which was on loan from an unnamed donor.

Although Laskarov will not be playing a Stradivarius



Arkansas Symphony Orchestra violinist and concertmaster Kiril Laskarov

at the Kirk concert, the performance will provide us with a real treat – a musical delight not to be missed.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will benefit the two music education groups mentioned above. Both organizations appreciate the Kirk's hosting this wonderful program.

Jan Holtberg is a member of the Communication Committee.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 24 and Party Time!

The Kirk welcomes back The Spa City Stompers for the second annual Mardi Gras Costume Party from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, in Hoffius Hall.



Space is limited so sign up early, pick out your costume, lay out your beads and invite a friend for a rousing good time.

Sign up before and after Saturday evening and Sunday morning services beginning Jan. 4.



University of the Ozarks' Chamber Choir performs annually at the Kirk.

Kirk maintains close ties with U. of Ozarks

By Arnie Holtberg

Each year the Kirk enjoys the mellifluous sounds of the talented Chamber Choir of the University of the Ozarks. Many of us welcome students into our homes during their visits.

How delightful is this regular event! How many of us know much about the context in which these young people spend most of their days – the University itself?

The University of the Ozarks is a private four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is on a 30-acre campus in Clarksville, Ark.

Founded in 1834, it is the oldest university in this state, and one of the oldest universities west of the Mississippi River.

Enrollment this year hovers around 825, second-highest in school history, and includes students from 23 nations. U.S. News & World Report has ranked the college as “top tier” for the last 18 years.

Not only does the University of the Ozarks turn out capable, well-prepared graduates through its outstanding

academic and co-curricular faith-based programs, it is also an important economic engine. In a recent issue of Today, the annual magazine for alumni and friends of the university, it was noted the university has an annual impact of approximately \$38.3 million on Clarksville, Johnson County, and Arkansas.

University President Richard Dunsworth said: “In a lot of ways this study shows that we are thriving as an institution and that we’re making a real and positive difference in the region and the state.”

While the economic contribution of the university is strong, we can confidently say a far greater impact is being made by the graduates of the university who each benefit from its myriad offerings: Academics, activities, internships, part-time jobs, academic conferences, and nonprofit engagement.

The Kirk’s membership has seen the evidence and should be pleased with our historic relationship with the university.

Arnie Holtberg is on the Communication Committee.



Dr. Bob Morrow welcoming a large crowd for the Kirk Choir’s Christmas Gift program on Dec. 8

Kirk choir brings Christmas from around the world

By Jamie Federick

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8, the Sanctuary Choir presented their choral concert “Our Christmas Gift: Carols from Around the World.”

Under the leadership of Music Director Randy Toney with Donna Toney at the keyboard, the choir performed both unique and well-known carols originating from France, England, German, Ireland and the Soviet Ukraine.

Choir member Dr. Bob Morrow, in his rich, tenor voice introduced the afternoon program and welcomed those in attendance. He also, midway through the concert, read the Christina Rossetti’s poem *The Christmas Carol* which was later put to music as *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

In addition to the carols by the choir, Donna Toney

and Fran Stroud were featured in a four-hand piano duet. Choir member Linda Hommema skillfully presented the familiar *The Holly and the Ivy* on the bells.

A sample of those carols presented included *The Wexford Carol* which dates to the 12th century and *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* from the early 17th century. *The Bell Carol* was easily recognized as was the African-American Spiritual *Keep Your Lamps*.

Other Christmas favorites were enjoyed by the congregation ending with the traditional English carol *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*.

Thank you choir for your beautiful presentation and lovely gift honoring the birth of our Christ Jesus.

Jamie Federick is a member of the Communication Committee.



Linda Hommema (left) on bells and Donna Toney and Fran Stroud (above) at the piano were part of the concert. (Robert Sonnen photos)

Food and song mark Christmas Gathering

The Kirk's fourth annual Christmas Gathering was a great success with more than 70 in attendance in Hoffius Hall. There was a glutinous selection of delicious appetizers from which to choose and delectable desserts galore.

Treble in the Village presented an enjoyable costumed skit in which a lady from the 1700s, a little girl with missing teeth, a hippopotamus and Mrs. Claus shared and sang about their Christmas lists.

An audience participation Sing Along entitled *The Twelve Days of Christmas, Arkansas Style* was followed by a brief six-song formal concert by the ladies quartet. All was well received.

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone for helping make this event such a success and we wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year!

– *By Vicki Rosenquist, Moderator of Fellowship. Photos by Jamie Federick.*



Treble in the Village was in costumed skit.



Ladies quartet presented six songs.



Bill Ward in costume.



Seven Coons-a-playing were Helen Van Stone, Millie Croson, Bob Berry and Lorraine Berry.



Sheri Swan, Ellen Marshall, Rick Federick, Ted Sampsel and Harry Marshall are 5 Spinning Wheels.

Timothy Keller gives guidance on power of prayer

Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God
by Timothy Keller

A Prayer Quiz

Prayer is (a) a nonnegotiable necessity, (b) continuing a conversation that God has started, (c) daily duty and discipline, or (d) all of the above.

In Timothy Keller's starter book on prayer, he explains (d) all of the above are aspects of Christian prayer.

Keller, a Presbyterian minister and author, along with his wife were both confronted with medical problems which drew them to prayer as a "nonnegotiable necessity" for coping with difficult life circumstances. A search began and a book was the result, and it is an excellent resource for those wanting to understand and practice Christian prayer.

To answer the universal question "What is Prayer?" Keller writes:

"Prayer is continuing a conversation that God has started through his Word and his grace which eventually becomes a full encounter with Him."

The reader is pointed toward the model prayer, The Lord's Prayer, "which Jesus Christ gave to us as the key to unlock all the riches of prayer."



**Carnegie
Corner**
By Susan Morrow

In this helpful first book on understanding prayer, Keller repeatedly uses the Psalms (a book of prayers) for a starting point for God's communication through the scriptures – the written Word. We are encouraged and prodded to incorporate daily prayer conversations through helpful insights on including Meditation on a Scripture reading, Word Prayers using Scriptural insight and Free Prayer addressing the heart needs.

Timothy Keller's book *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God* is not a secret key to prayer or a "magic formula tapping into supernatural forces" or a substitute for the work of prayer.

But it is a guide to aid us as we join into God's continuing conversation with us through scripture and His grace.





Happy dates



Birthdays

Jan.1 Wayne Copeland
 Jan.2 Jerry Carroll
 Jan.3 Dorothy Stroupe
 Jan.4 Jeanne Lowenthal
 Jan.6 Donald Elsenheimer
 Marsha Huff
 Susan Unger

Jan.9 Mike Carpenter
 Jan.10 Priscilla Hayek
 Jan.12 Debra Cordell
 Jan.14 Karen Ammann
 Darell Fisher
 Jan.17 Jane Harless
 Jan.18 Ted Sampsel

Jan.22 Jerral Johnson
 Jan.25 Linda Hommema
 Halene Strautman
 Jan.31 Marcia Bauer
 Emily Faulk

Anniversaries

January 1 Dotty and Gary Rector
 January 23 Jean and Darell Fisher

39 years
 60 years

January 26 Marty and Art Volkema 63 years
 January 29 Marty and John Davis 26 years

Kitchen Ministry includes two special missions

By Barbara Worthley

The Mission Committee of Kirk in the Pines supports many different mission endeavors, one of which is the local Kitchen Ministry.

Of course you are familiar with our wonderful Greenhorns. You may remember the article in this newsletter this past January. That article detailed the history of the Greenhorns and highlighted the 12 Kirk ladies who participate in this ministry.

This article is intended to detail the two missions of the Kitchen Ministry.

• **Soup and More** – This mission is performed by the Greenhorns on an individual basis. Yummy casseroles and soups are prepared on an as-needed basis and stored in the freezer at the Kirk. They may be picked up by anyone any time the church is open.

These meals come in handy for busy people as well as for those for whom grocery shopping and food preparation is difficult. They are not only nutritious, but tasty as well! An envelope is taped to the

outside of the freezer for contributions.

• **Helping**

The Greenhorns meet on the second Tuesday of the month to prepare a meal to be delivered to the home of church members in need. These delicious meals are greatly appreciated by those recovering from surgery or are otherwise in need, as well as their care givers.

The Helping Hands meals are delivered by members of the Congregational Care Committee: Jay and Martha Nielsen, Tony and Barbara Booth, Carolyn Kane and Barbara Keegan.

Last year, 1,100 meals were prepared and delivered thanks in part to an annual \$500 allocation from the Mission Committee.

Carol Clark, a



A look at our Missions

member of the Greenhorns, said new members for the Soup and More group are welcome, and may contact her for more information at 915-8497.

Barbara Worthley is on the Communication Committee.



Look for a break to get out and play round of golf

By **Jim Hess**

Welcome to 2020.

Dealing with the adjustment of writing 2020 on all our correspondence, checks and the like, golf may be the last thing on our minds.

However -- Arkansas's mild winters provide us with several 60 degree afternoons. Why not take advantage of this Arkansas Bonus? Play a practice round when you can or take advantage of extra putting. April will be here sooner than you think.

Save the 2nd Sunday of each month for our game, beginning in April of 2020. We play our

Village courses the second Sunday of each month, April through October. Dinner follows golf at one of the various Village restaurants.

If you are new to our Kirk and looking for a friendly golf game, we welcome you. We are The Kirk Golf Group, a gang of single and couple golfers of all skill levels who play 9 or 18 holes. It is always your choice.

If you would like additional information, please call me at 922-2326, or email

jimobhess@suddenlink.net

Jim Hess is the Kirk's golf coordinator.



Kirk staff

William B. Bailey – Senior Pastor

Randy Toney – Director of Music

Donna Toney – Organist/Pianist

Janie Smith – Visitation Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth – Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg – Business Administrator

Arthur “Chip” Johnson – Sexton

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