

# A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVI, Issue 5, May 2020

## Where do things stand in this time of crisis?

By Frank Leeming

The big question everyone wants answered is: When will the Kirk re-open?

We're going to try to restart our Saturday services on May 16 and our Sunday services on May 17. But there's always a but ...

Gov. Asa Hutchinson has adopted a three-phase federal plan for re-opening Arkansas's many layers of business, government, food services, recreation, education and myriad other ways we go about our lives.

Re-opening churches are part of Phase One, and it specifically says:

"Large venues (e.g., sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship) can operate under strict physical distancing protocols."

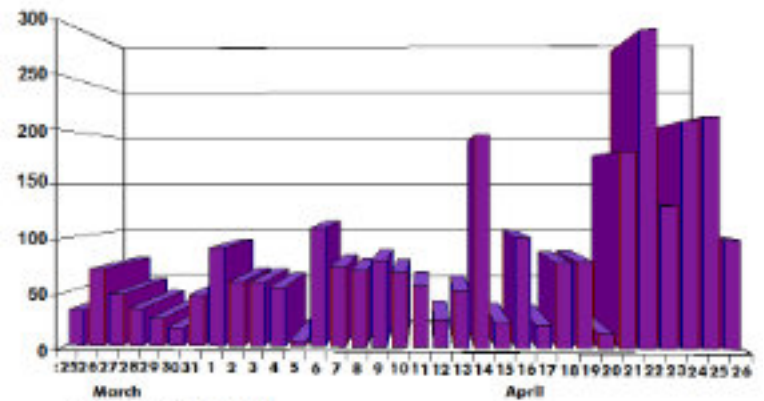
The trigger to begin Phase One is 14 consecutive days when the number of new cases of coronavirus in Arkansas has gone down. As of Sunday, that would be May 10. You can see from the chart how the number of

new cases goes up and down. To begin Phase One, the number has to go down for 14 straight days.

When there have been 14 consecutive days, our church leaders will have to decide when to open the church and what the "strict



Number of new cases of Covid-19 in Arkansas



Source: Arkansas Dept. of Health

physical distancing protocols" will be when we re-open.

Until then our church will continue to serve the membership as well as it can within the current constraints.

Our staff is still on the job and being paid.

Religious services are available on-line – a full order of worship including hymns, reading of the Gospel and Pastor Bill Bailey's excellent sermons. The church office is sending out a weekly link to the services.

While the "productions" of our on-line services are not up to what you see on Netflix, they get the job done and those responsible deserve our praise and thanks.

Contents of this newsletter go into detail on all the ways we are trying to hold things together. Emails will be sent out in the weeks ahead to keep you informed.

Meanwhile, stay safe.

*Frank Leeming is on the Communication Committee.*

## When we meet

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



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

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



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

For more meeting times see  
[www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar](http://www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar)



## Things can be learned in this time of isolation

I reread Hanns Lilje's memoir this past month, a small book entitled, *The Valley of the Shadow* (1947). It is about his experiences as a political prisoner in World War II.

Lilje was a Lutheran pastor involved with the Confessing Church movement in Germany during the 1930s. As a critic of the National Socialists, he was eventually arrested as a threat to the State and taken first to the Gestapo prison in the Prinz Albrecht Strasse in Berlin. He was later taken to Tegel prison and eventually spent time in Dachau and Buchenwald prison camps.

It was a harrowing experience. He was tortured and kept in solitary confinement. But Lilje also describes several extraordinary experiences that helped him survive. I'd like to share two of these with you.

Lilje first tells of hearing church bells ringing across Berlin on Sunday mornings. How this music enabled him to imagine his congregation gathering and singing during worship. Even when he could not be present, the music helped him remember the liturgies of the Lutheran worship.

The second experience came from a fellow prisoner. Lilje recalls one morning he heard someone whistling the first line of a familiar hymn. Lilje says he sprang to his window and as soon as his unknown companion ceased whistling, he answered with the chorale: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing! This continued, antiphonally, until the guard down the corridor made a sudden noise and they stopped.

Lilje tells us this continued, off and on, the entire time he was imprisoned. Each day, a prisoner would share a familiar hymn and others would respond. Even though they never met and never spoke face to face with any of these inmates, the music helped him remember that he was not alone. The music of the church sustained his faith.

When liberation finally came in the spring of 1945, Lilje was in Buchenwald. This is how he describes it:

### The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



“After a short commotion in the corridor, the door of my cell was suddenly thrown open and one of my fellow-prisoners rushed in, with tears of joy, crying out: ‘The Americans have come!’ But my first reaction was not one of joy ... As others were jubilant in the hallways, I simply sat on my bunk and was immediately conscious of how very long and difficult it would be for us to get back to a normal life ... I kept asking myself, ‘Have I learned enough from this to go on?’”

And while we have not suffered anything like what he went through, I think his questions are good ones for us to ask ourselves.

What are we learning from this experience of isolation? What has sustained us during this time of social distancing? Have we made use of the suffering endured, so that in the days to come, we might remember what is of lasting importance?

We, too, should remember the road back to normalcy may be difficult. It's anyone's guess how this pandemic will unfold in the months ahead.

In this Easter Season we are reminded we are not alone. Our Lord is with us. As we go through this change, let us keep our eyes focused on the things that endure, the things that stand the test of time, and the things for which our children will be proud.

Let us be strong in faith and hope, and continue to be the people our Lord calls us to be.

Blessings this Easter Season, your pastor, Bill

## PW waiting to see if they can meet on May 11

By Vicki Rosenquist

Our PW year comes to a close in May. We can look over the last nine months reviewing all the positive accomplishments achieved.

Each of our four circles met four times to share in a Bible study and fellowship. Two circles met at the Kirk, one met at Good Sam, and one met at member homes.

There were three gatherings where all women of the Kirk assembled to benefit from and be enriched by Bible studies led by the Rev. Bill Bailey as well as enjoy a delicious luncheon.

During the Christmas season, circles were given names of families who could benefit from some extra help. Each circle “adopted a family,” shopped for, wrapped gifts and delivered both food and presents to the families. PW also contributed to many missions both local and global.

We're waiting to see if the Kirk will be open for our May Gathering at 11 a.m. Monday, May 11 in the sanctuary. The Rev. Carol Clark would be our guest speaker with a salad luncheon to follow.

*Vicki Rosenquist is PW Moderator.*

# Everyone wants the Kirk to get back to normal

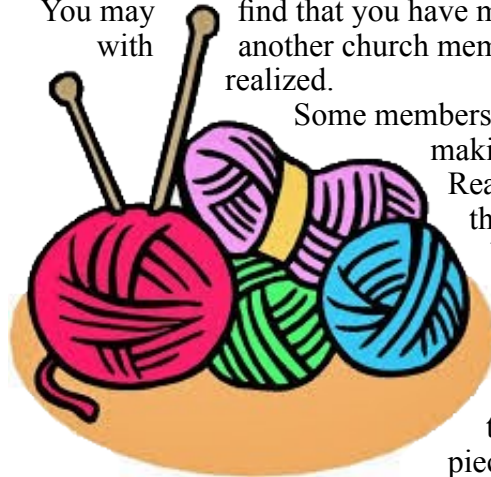
This has been a trying time for everyone. The Session has prayed about how we can continue to maintain fellowship among the membership when the Kirk is closed due to the coronavirus.

A number of things have been utilized to maintain contact with the members. Pastor Bill Bailey, Randy and Donna Toney, Nancy Patton, Sharon Gardner, Patty Van Cleave and several additional members have presented programs through computer connections.

Many have offered to pick up food items and medical supplies for those not able to go themselves.

Others have manned the telephones to check on the status of members. It is amazing what a short telephone conversation with someone who has been confined at home, for a period of time, will do for both members. Take time to call someone and do what we call in Texas, just 'Shoot the Breeze' with them.

You may find that you have more in common with another church member than you realized.



Some members have been making prayer shawls. Reading is probably the activity enjoyed by most members.

One member has taken on a rather difficult task of putting together a 5,000-piece puzzle. I understand it is

**The Clerk's Corner**



**Jerral Johnson**

scattered out on the dining room table and several card tables. We wish him luck.

The plan was to resume worship services on May 2 (Saturday Service) and May 3 (Sunday Service). But the requirement of 14 consecutive days with falling numbers of coronavirus cases in Arkansas has pushed the date back (see the chart on the front page of our newsletter).

I know everyone is anxious to get back onto a schedule. Committee meetings have been put on hold. It is important that they begin regular meetings and make plans for the many activities conducted by the church.

The Session will prayerfully consider when it is safe to open the Kirk. If there is any change in the time to open the church, you will be notified as soon as possible.

## Dr. Bob Morrow taking over on Communications

Dr. Bob Morrow, heir-apparent to the position of Moderator of the Communication Committee at the Kirk, is a retired pediatric cardiologist and expert in heart transplantation in children.

He, with his wife Susan, came to Hot Springs Village from Little Rock by way of Dallas in an evolutionary process that found him Chief Medical Officer while in each community before taking up residence in their Lake Cortez home. They became members of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines in 2017.

Dr. Morrow served as a professor of pediatrics at UAMS and has authored a textbook in this field. He will be completing the final eight months of Lowell Gardner's three-year term. Lowell has tendered his resignation effective May 1 due to declining health and fatigue.

As a medical doctor, professor and author, Bob will

bring a wealth of valuable knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to the role of moderator. Lowell and Bob have been in communication and are both committed to a smooth transition.

These are certainly not ordinary times. The nomination and election process are a bit warped but Bob has agreed to the position and is clearly qualified.

We at the Kirk need to give Dr. Bob Morrow our unwavering support as the process works itself out and the vital communication needs of the Kirk are met.



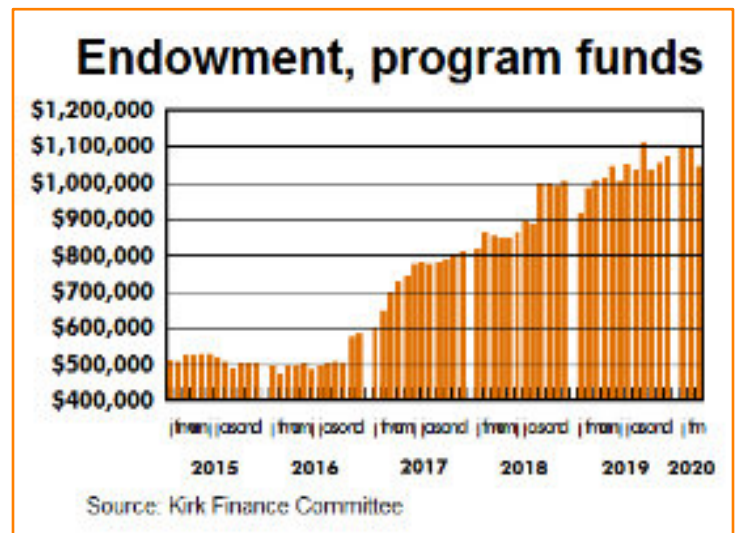
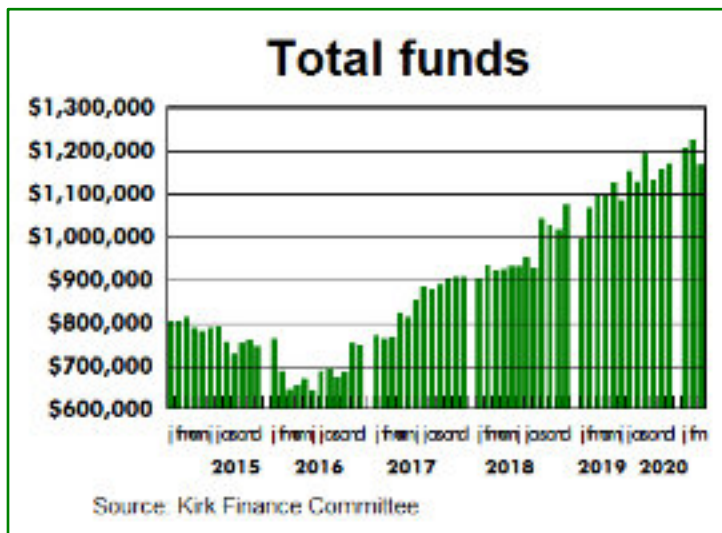
Dr. Bob Morrow



# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

**Year to date as of March 31, 2020**

|   | Month     |           | Year to date |                     |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
|   | Budget    | Actual    | Budget       | Actual              |
| <b>General Fund:</b>                    |           |           |              |                     |
| Receipts                                | \$ 36,370 | \$ 21,246 | \$ 109,110   | \$ 123,961          |
| Disbursements                           | \$ 37,375 | \$ 28,677 | \$ 112,125   | \$ 82,636           |
| <b>Building Fund:</b>                   |           |           |              |                     |
| Receipts                                | \$ 4,218  | \$ 1,774  | \$ 12,654    | \$ 16,390           |
| Disbursements                           | \$ 4,660  | \$ 3,457  | \$ 13,980    | \$ 14,362           |
| <b>Total all funds:</b>                 |           |           |              |                     |
| Receipts                                | \$ 40,588 | \$ 23,020 | \$ 121,764   | \$ 140,351          |
| Disbursements                           | \$ 42,035 | \$ 32,134 | \$ 126,105   | \$ 96,998           |
| Checking and Money Market Funds Balance |           |           |              | \$ 120,233          |
| <b>Special funds:</b>                   |           |           |              |                     |
| Memorial fund                           |           |           |              | \$ 58,825           |
| Luke 12:48 fund                         |           |           |              | \$ 246,219          |
| Programs fund                           |           |           |              | \$ 51,768           |
| Endowment fund                          |           |           |              | \$ 629,517          |
| Maack-Ormsbee Fund                      |           |           |              | \$ 58,664           |
| <b>Total special funds</b>              |           |           |              | <b>\$ 1,044,993</b> |



## \$528 for Mission

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

A total of \$528 was collected in March.

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.



Bruce Dale with his wife, Mary Ann, and eight grandchildren and a niece.

## ***Bruce Dale went from Pete's gas station to the highest levels of the nation's security agency***

**By Jan Holtberg**

Pickleball brought Bruce Dale and his wife, Mary Ann, to Hot Springs Village. Not golf. Not fishing. Pickleball. We are glad they are here to tell this interesting story.

Bruce was born in Wilmington, Del. He, his older brother, and their parents moved around the east coast before settling in Maryland.

In high school, Bruce worked at Pete's gas station. He lived for baseball with aspirations of playing in the major leagues. When he understood his aspiration would probably not be realized, his big brother encouraged him to consider going into mechanical engineering. He seemed to enjoy tinkering with cars at Pete's.

Bruce was accepted at the University of Maryland, receiving his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. He was hired by Bell Labs and they paid for Bruce to earn a master's degree from Maryland and doctorate from Purdue, both in mechanical engineering.

Bruce had a fascinating career putting his degrees to extremely good use. He spent 25 years with Bell Labs, developing large hardware/software systems that ran the telephone companies' businesses.

He later moved to Bellcore, a subsidiary of Bell Labs, from which he retired.

### ***New member***

Then Bruce was named a senior vice president at Iridium, a startup communications company. Iridium launched over 70 satellites to enable voice communication by satellite phone from every location on earth.

During that time Bruce's wife was diagnosed with cancer. She passed away in 2000.

Bruce met his present wife Mary Ann while she was working in a nursing home. Ironically, they were caring for his mother-in-law following his wife's passing. Bruce and Mary Ann married in 2003.

Re-entering the workforce, he was enticed back to Bell Labs/Lucent Technology. He spent almost four years in England managing the development of their 3rd generation wireless technology.

The National Security Agency (NSA) asked him to serve on its Advisory Board reviewing major projects. Part-time work led to full-time work and Bruce was

*Please turn to page 7*





## **Ouachita Children's Center offers a new future**

**By Susan Morrow**

“She’s headed to college: Against all odds, she’ll soon be a freshman. ‘Shelly’ (not her real name) practically grew up in foster care. Not only is she going to college, she’s only 16 and going to college! She’s spent the summer at Ouachita Children’s Center (OCC) shelter and while she’s been with us, her case manager and staff have done a phenomenal job helping her to get ready.” (*OCC Summer 2018 Newsletter*)

Ouachita Children’s Center (OCC) of Hot Springs was founded in 1977. It provides resources to youth and families to secure a more hopeful future.

OCC is a community-based non-profit in partnership with the United Way. Most people associate OCC with their emergency youth shelter but the current name is actually Ouachita Children, Youth & Family Services.

In response to the needs of youth and families in our community, OCC has expanded its community programs to address homelessness among youth and to families experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

The new Drop-In Center offers homeless youth a safe place to shower, get a meal and get off the streets. The new Domestic Violence Shelter offers families a safe place to live.

At-risk youth like “Shelly” are able to stay at the OCC emergency youth shelter which offers both residential and non-residential services. Individuals



OCC services are evaluated by a team of dedicated staff and provided individualized case management.

These may include educational support groups or one-on-one tutoring by a Little Rock school educator.

More than 45 dedicated staff at OCC work as a team to provide a variety of services to help care for youth and families in crises. This team of professionals includes case managers, educators, psychological and counseling service providers, licensed therapists, support group leaders and facilitators, direct-care staff, substance-abuse prevention providers, and homeless outreach team members.

Mark Howard, the former OCC Executive Director, explains: “So many of our youth are scarred beyond what we think possible ... One thing holds true for those who find shelter with OCC and receive care from

*Please turn to page 7*

# Pickleball attracted Bruce Dale to the Village

*Continued from page 5*

reporting to the director of the agency. Bruce retired after seven years.

In the first years of retirement, Bruce served as a part-time professor of math and physics at a Maryland community college. He stayed physically active playing racketball and squash. He took up pickleball, ran a pickleball league, and played in tournaments around the country.

In 2018, his pickleball partner moved to Hot Springs Village. In July of 2019, Bruce invited his former pickleball partner to play in a tournament in Hot Springs.

Here the story gets very intriguing. Bruce and Mary Ann were invited to stay for the tournament with his former partner and his wife in the Village. While the men competed, the wives passed the time looking at real estate.

The Dales found a house and they bought it before leaving the Village.

## Directory photos on hold through summer

Lifetouch (Church Division), the parent company of the folks producing and printing the new directory for the Kirk, is closed through the summer due to the coronavirus pandemic. No photography will be scheduled until at least mid-August.

Carol Clark, Moderator of Member Outreach, will stay informed on this and the Communication Committee will keep you updated through the *Voice in the Pines* newsletter and other means so you'll be able to schedule an appointment for having your picture taken for the directory.

## OCC offers a new start

*Continued from page 6*

our dedicated staff – they have an overwhelming desire to become REAL in the sense that they want to find stability, love, and a sense of permanence.” (OCC Spring 2018 Newsletter)

The care received by children, youth and families at Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services is due, in large part, to support from the community. Our Kirk in the Pines community is part of the effort as our Missions Dollars give children like “Shelly” a chance for a future that they never dreamed possible.

**Susan Morrow is on the Communication Committee.**

Returning to Maryland, they put their home there on the market. It sold in three days. “Bought and sold a house in the blink of an eye – a magic moment,” Bruce said. They closed on Oct. 1 and moved into their Lake Balboa home last Nov. 1.

Bruce attended a Presbyterian Church all his life and has served as an elder and trustee in the past. He intended to church-shop after settling in the Village.

His first stop was Kirk in the Pines. The shopping ended. Mary Ann is Roman Catholic and attends Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Together, Bruce and Mary Ann have five children and ten grandchildren. Bruce stays busy with racket sports, working out at the Coronado Fitness Center, bicycling, walking his two Yorkies, and dabbling in piano, guitar, and banjo.

We're very happy to welcome Bruce to the Kirk.

**Jan Holtberg is on the Kirk Communication Committee.**



Mary Ann and Bruce Dale.



## England trip canceled

With the world-wide coronavirus pandemic making travel unsafe, Pastor Bill Bailey's tour to England in September has been canceled.

When it is safe to travel again, future trips may be planned.

Meanwhile, everyone is encouraged to take precautions to stay safe.



# Virtual celebration

## *The Kirk's Easter-week services delivered digitally*



Pastor Bill Bailey (above) accompanies Music Director Randy Toney in one of the virtual Easter Week services. At the right, Pastor Bailey delivers a Palm Sunday devotional.



### By Patty Van Cleave

These times of “sheltering in place” due to the coronavirus pandemic are both anxious and restful. Most of us are enjoying some downtime to do projects we’ve been putting off. Or we read a book we haven’t had time for before.

Then there are the moments of anxiety.

The biggest downturn to this whole “social distancing thing” is the loneliness we feel from the lack of community. So, with the ever-expanding technology available to us, a group of Kirk members, including Pastor Bill Bailey, Music Director Randy Toney, Organist/Pianist Donna Toney, Worship

Moderator Nancy Patton, and volunteer videographer Sharon Gardner put their heads together, via a Zoom virtual meeting, to create a plan to keep our church community connected.

The Toney family began by sending the choir links to music on YouTube they felt were inspiring and comforting. There also were recordings of Donna playing the piano.

The choir enjoyed them so much they suggest sending them to the whole congregation. The music was very well received there also.

Music is wonderful, but we all missed hearing messages from Pastor Bailey. For Palm Sunday,



Patty Van Cleave and Randy Toney (in left photo) and Sharon Gardner and Patty (below) sing in the virtual services. The lower photo shows Pastor Bailey with the virtual Kirk choir.



Sharon put together a montage of recordings into a small service. Included was a prelude from Donna, hymns sung by Randy Toney and Patty Van Cleave, a duet of special music from Sharon and Patty, and a devotional message from Bill.

More special music from Donna in the form of a beautiful piano solo rounded out the service. The response was overwhelming!

Plans were then formulated for more services. Maundy Thursday and Easter services were slightly more formal than the Palm Sunday.

The Maundy Thursday service was as close to the

regular service as it can be with a limited number of people.

The Easter service was not as grand as it would have been if we could have all gathered in person, but Easter is such an important event in the Christian calendar. We are grateful we can get together in some fashion, even if it is virtual!

No one knows how long this “shelter at home” situation will last. But rest assured – as long as we can’t gather in person, we will be communicating and connecting via our technology.

***Patty Van Cleave is on the Communication Committee.***



# **Kirk-assisted Habitat home continues to grow**

**By Patty Van Cleave**

**Photos by Harry Wakefield**

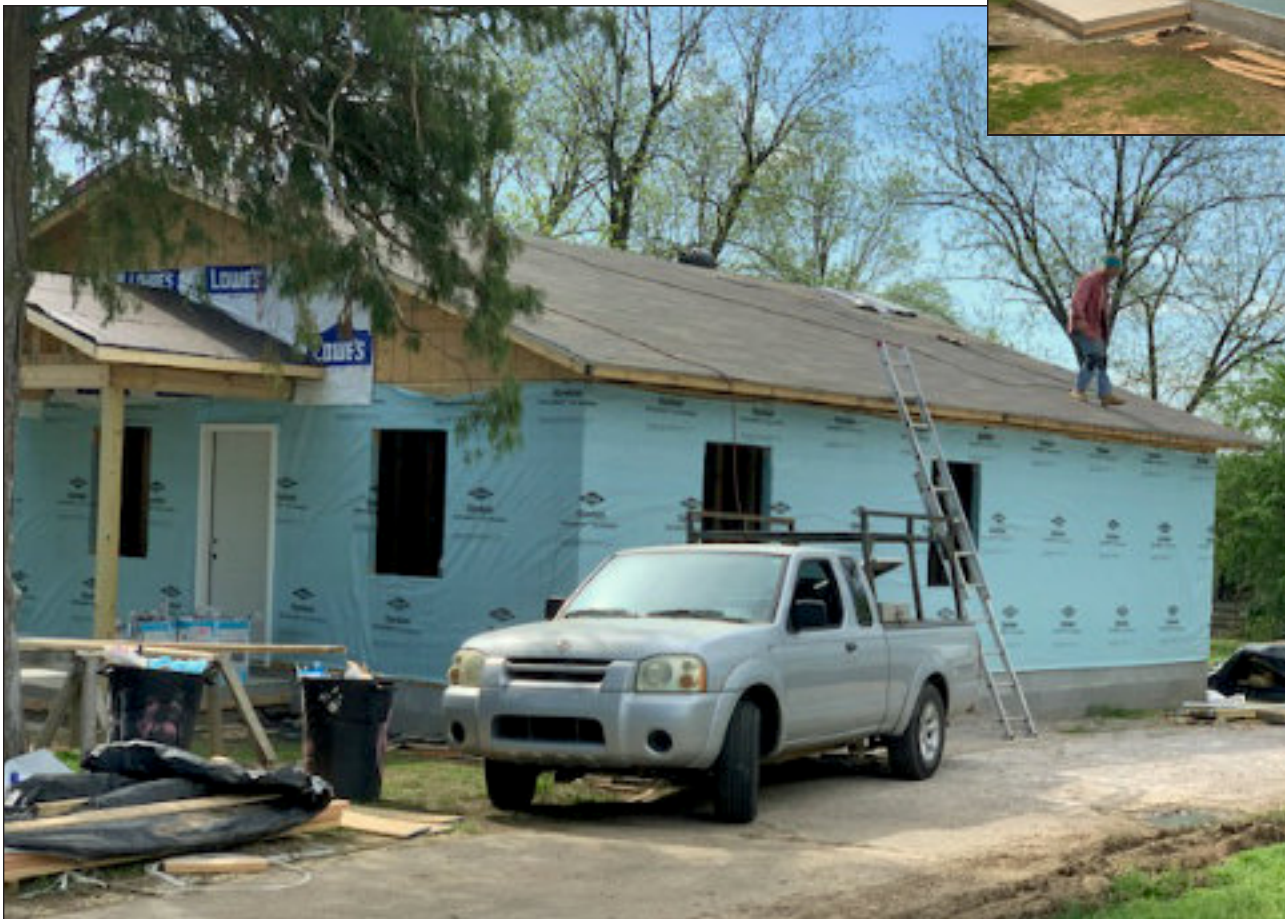
On Feb. 13, five members of the Mission Committee attended the groundbreaking for a new Habitat for Humanity's Apostles Build house in Hot Springs.

Since then the progress has been slowed by frequent rains, something our area has worked around for years – not unexpected. Now framing is complete and plywood sheathing is nearing completion.

Unpredictable weather made projecting a completion date difficult. Then came the coronavirus pandemic. Although Dennis Cooper of Garland County Habitat for Humanity said construction was suspended because of the outbreak, observations at the site on April 9 indicate work is still underway.

For more information, contact Harry Wakefield, Missions Committee Moderator. When construction commences or progress is observed you can keep up by watching for these articles in the newsletter or watching the electronic message board in Hoffius Hall following Sunday Morning Worship once we are able again to gather in person.

*Patty Van Cleave is on the Communication Committee and Harry Wakefield is Moderator of the Missions Committee.*







# Reflection

## ***World seems out of control, but savor each day***

**By Judy Corwin**

Although our world seems out of control, we can rely on our faith. God is with us through it all.

We are reminded each day is precious. This downtime can be used for reflection on what should be important to us. We have time to focus on our family, friends, and those less fortunate.

We live in a world of beauty. We fail to see it when our eyes are focused on the TV screen or our smartphones.

The other day I was digging in the dirt and found a colorful caterpillar. Many of us relate the change from caterpillar to butterfly or moth as a symbol of the resurrection. This change happens slowly. It takes time.

Right now many of us are changing, adapting to a new time in our lives. It will take faith and patience. Just as Easter renewed our hope, it is also proof of God's promise.

I took the picture of this beautiful swallowtail butterfly a few days after finding the caterpillar. This butterfly had already gone through the transformation.

The coming days will be different, but we can still enjoy the moment. The words of the old hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* (F.S. Pierpoint, 1864) says it all:

“For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. Lord of all to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.”

# All you need to worship, right where you are

In the introduction to *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, author Barbara Brown Taylor muses that in our search for the place where we may find God, “many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot because we are standing on it!”

She follows with “there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world.”

In 12 chapters suffused with humor, compassion, and utmost seriousness, Taylor goes on to describe 12 practices she characterizes as “exercises in being human that require a body as well as a soul.”

And then she proclaims: “Whoever you are, you are human. Wherever you are, you live in the world, which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it.”

These priestly practices include both intentional acts such as paying attention, walking, being present to God and pronouncing blessings, as well as acts in response to what life throws in our path like encountering others, feeling pain, getting lost, waking up to God.

Woven throughout are recollections of her path from gangly adolescent to the parish priest and ultimately a professor of religion, telling of Old Testament stories of Jacob, Moses, and others, nuggets of wisdom from saints and spiritual leaders of the past, and shared truths with other faiths and more.

For example, on the practice of walking Taylor quotes Augustine’s *solvitur ambulando*, (it is solved by



**Carnegie  
Corner**  
By Bob Morrow

walking) adding that “most of us spend so much time thinking about where we have been or where we are going that we have a hard time recognizing where we actually are.”

Her crisp critique of contemporary religious attitudes can at times be severe.

After a down-to-earth recounting of the story of the exodus from Egypt and the Hebrew’s 40 years of failure in the desert, she reminds us that “Popular religion focuses so hard on the spiritual success that most of us do not know the first thing about the spiritual fruits of failure ...

“And yet if someone asked us to pinpoint the times in our lives that changed us for the better, a lot of those times would be wilderness times.”

In her chapter on being present to God she offers, perhaps, one of the best, personal and moving

*Please turn to page 13*

## First view of corona showed no hint of today’s virus

**By Lowell Gardner**

In August 2017, I was in Cadiz, Ky., near the Island Between the Lakes. This is a disjointed stretch of land straddling the Kentucky-Tennessee border. It was created by dams on the Kentucky and Cumberland Rivers.

We were there at the invitation of friends to witness a total eclipse of the sun. Armed with sunscreen, dark tinted glasses and a comfortable, tilt-back chair, I observed the dusk-like shadows form as the umbra of the moon darkened the noonday sun.

I saw on my first *corona*, an illuminated ring of gaseous suspended water droplets surrounding the celestial body.

The word *corona* is borrowed from the Latin, denoting the wreath around the head of an athlete or royal crown.

Today we know the word is menacingly associated with the *virus*. You’ll find it on the label of your disinfected spray or wipes. We find it abbreviated in newspaper headlines as COVID-19, the highly contagious form of the virus for which we have no clear treatment.

The flu-like, potentially deadly symptoms manifest themselves as fever, cough, extreme shortness of breath, and body aches. To avoid contagion the recommended approach is to stay home and to practice social distancing.

*Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.*

## Scholarship deadline

Applications are being accepted for the Maack-Ormsbee scholarship. The deadline to submit applications is June 30.

Applicants must be members, employees, or family members of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines for at least three years.

The applicant must have proof of registration at an accredited state university or college, Presbyterian Church USA university, or accredited trade school.

Applications and more information may be obtained from the Kirk office or from Education Moderator Pat Kuntz, 501 204-4385.



# Social distancing

## How some of us are going about our daily lives

By Lowell Gardner

Because the only known defense against the coronavirus, beyond personal and territorial hygiene, (hurrah for handwipes) is social distancing, it seems prudent – yes, imperative – for all to be so engaged. The question is how and for how long.

Thanks to the foresight of our Kirk Session, meeting on Feb. 13 in prayer-filled consideration, they

initially suspended large group gatherings and restricted use of our facilities. Members of the Session have corporately and individually continued to guide our Kirk Ministries.

Weekly consideration is given to maintaining group restrictions. Administration and Building committees maintain office and custodial staff. Congregational Care initiated daily interpersonal contacts by phone. Worship Committee in conjunction with Music Ministry personnel has begun a Virtual Worship Program.

Missions has stayed abreast of Habitat for Humanity construction. Communications is producing the newsletter and newspaper articles. The Rev. Bill Bailey continues to meet the pastoral needs of the Kirk and is available as other needs arise.

How do they protect themselves?

All Session members available for this article acknowledged strict adherence to the restrictions. Nancy Patton qualified that by mentioning limited small



groups. She is involved in Virtual Worship Programming. They maintain the six-foot rule.

Six of the seven interviewed said reading is a highlighted way to fill the time, while three make reference to jigsaw puzzles.

Pat and Mel Kuntz laid out a 5x3-foot giant puzzle, a gift from a grandson. They add yard work to occupy their day.

The computer is significant in the lives of Session Moderators. Sally Fink engages in a Bible Study on Zoom, a virtual-meeting software. She also uses it with her daughters and granddaughters to great enjoyment. This newsletter is produced by computer and telephone.

Walking is beneficial alone, as couples or with a neighbor or friend, sometimes wearing a protective mask. The Wakefields can go up to five miles. Ruth Richards and Ron Lovett play golf.

The major reason for venturing out is for groceries, gasoline or the pharmacy. Barron and Wendy Gage pre-order and pick up takeout meals. Groceries can be pre-ordered and picked up without leaving the car.

Some wash their hands more often than ever imagined and re-clean the clean – protecting themselves and others.

God will guide us through this as we use our God-given good sense.

*Lowell Gardner is Moderator of the Communication Committee.*

## Getting the most out of the ways you worship God

Continued from page 12

descriptions of what it means to pray that I've found in print.

The remarkable thing is that she is able to stitch together all this seamlessly conveying what it means to worship God by being fully human and made in the image of God. She concludes that "for reasons beyond

anyone's understanding, God has decided to be made known in flesh. Matter matters to God. The most ordinary things are drenched in divine possibility".

An *Altar in the World* reminds us that even at times when our sanctuary is shuttered, there are altars where we can still find God in the world and among the people he created.





## ***Spring beauty***

The Kirk's Memorial Garden and the foliage around our church were in full bloom the day before Easter.

Even the Easter bunny was out and about. It is a lovely time of year for all to enjoy.

*Photos by Joyce Leeming*







# Happy dates



## Birthdays

May 1 Marci Drews  
Dennis Zymboly  
May 4 Dick Easter  
May 5 Ellen Weber  
May 7 Barbara Worthley

May 9 Helen Valentine  
May 11 Dotty Rector  
May 14 Ruth Smith  
Sheila Stanley  
Donna Toney

May 24 Eve Hampton-Webb  
May 26 JoAnne Rich  
Alice Sparks  
May 28 Don Trent  
May 29 Millie Croson

## Anniversaries

May 15 Martha and Jay Nielsen 21 years  
May 29 Beverly and Mike Carpenter 55 years

May 31 Janie and Ted Smith 68 years

## Staying in rhythm while the music goes silent

With immediate effect! That was the suddenness of the Kirk Session's decision – the right one, we believe – to suspend worship beginning March 15.

The Kirk Choir has a rhythm (naturally!) to its preparation of worship music. Every Wednesday, we do our final preparation and polishing for the next Sunday's anthem. We also review the Choral Call to Worship and Benediction Response, as well as the Passing of the Peace response and the hymns.

Everyone knows the part they play in getting themselves prepared.

Since our suspension of worship, the choir room has remained as we left it on Wednesday, March 11. Messages on the whiteboard refer to events long past and canceled. Lenten hymns and anthems are everywhere. Time seems to have stopped.

As musicians, we love to make music. We enjoy listening to music. Losing our outlet to make music as a choir, we must look to other sources for the beauty, inspiration, and emotion music engenders. Finding music we love is easier with internet-based services such as Spotify, Pandora, and Apple Music.

Searching for something you know you enjoy often generates recommendations of music by similar artists, with similar instruments, or even similar styles.

For example, Donna loves listening to Yo-Yo Ma, today's most well-known cellist. A simple search for "Yo-Yo Ma" will bring you hundreds of choices of his music.

Or, searching for a lovely choral work, such as *Agnus Dei* by Samuel Barber, will lead to many recordings of



## Choir Notes

By Randy Toney

the work, plus some settings of *Agnus Dei* by other composers. Further selective searching will expand the options.

Some of our favorites shared with the choir are (type one of these into the search bar YouTube, for example):

- Yo-Yo Ma, *Simple Gifts*, with Alison Krauss
- *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*, 60th Anniversary of The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- Voces8, anything they sing!
- Copland, *Fanfare for the Common Man*, U.S. Marine's Band
- *Even When He is Silent*, St. Olaf Choir
- John Rutter, *The Lord is My Shepherd*
- Felix Mendelssohn, *Blessed Are the Men that Fear Him*, from Elijah

We will continue to listen to our favorites, as well as find new artists and pieces that lift us up. On behalf of our choir, we look forward to being back in worship with you, bringing music that we hope enhances your worship. We miss everyone!

## Like everything else, Kirk golf shuts down until quarantine ends

By Jim Hess

Due to coronavirus restrictions, April golf was canceled. No decision will be made on playing in May until instructions are received regarding conditions to be observed in May.

All members will be contacted by May 3rd regarding future play date.

Blessings to all, stay safe & healthy, hope to see everyone soon.

If you are new to our Kirk or are a current member and would like to join our Kirk Sunday Golf Group, we welcome you to join our golf group. We are couple and single golfers of various abilities who play 9 or 18 holes - your choice.

We play our Village courses with dinner to follow after golf the 2nd Sunday of each month, April through October. If you would like additional information call me at 922-2326.

*Jim Hess is the Kirk's golf coordinator.*



## Toneys thanks for music

Donna and Randy Toney have been sending the choir inspirational emails since our “stay-at-home” time began last month. We have been the fortunate recipient of weekly messages and recordings of beautiful music.

Some are of Donna's gorgeous playing of the piano. Once it was actually a piano duet with Donna and Randy performing. Other music is professionally recorded of classical or sacred pieces.

The impact of this generosity has reminded us of our continuing love of music and of each other.

Thank you, Randy and Donna, for your continuing musical presence in our lives. We are anxious and eager to return to singing in worship to our Lord.

*Dotty Rector*

## Kirk staff

**William B. Bailey** – Senior Pastor

**Randy Toney** – Director of Music

**Donna Toney** – Organist/Pianist

**Janie Smith** – Visitation Coordinator

**Chris Taylor-Wilmoth** – Secretary

**Beverly Schaumburg** – Business Administrator

**Arthur “Chip” Johnson** – Sexton

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

275 Asturias Drive

Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Phone: 501-922-1333 Fax: 922-6005

Email: [kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net)

[www.kirkinthepines.org](http://www.kirkinthepines.org)

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