

# A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVI, Issue 8, August 2020

## **Ted Smith celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in high style**

**By Jamie Federick**

When Ted Smith heard former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 85th birthday by skydiving out of an airplane, he figured: Why not me? So he did.

He followed suit a few years later and accomplished the same feat again. Now he wanted to do it a third time to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Ted made a reservation to jump for his birthday and even had the tickets when Covid-19 arrived. His daughter and wife Janie were concerned. But Ted was adamant about jumping, saying he would never have another 90th birthday!

It was a beautiful day at Skydive Midwest in Sturtevant, Wisc. They had virus protections in place. They wore masks, washed hands frequently, and used common sense.

Ted jumped with Kazuhiro, the same guy he had in the past.

This year his daughter Janet, who lives in Gurnee, Ill., along with her husband, hosted the



Kirk member Ted Smith soars over Wisconsin in his third skydive celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

weekend with family, food, and a birthday party. Fifteen family members were there to watch the featured event.

Lake Michigan was in the background and lush green Wisconsin fields were below. Ted said Kazuhiro

took excellent care of him on the jump and it was extremely exciting. "It was the best birthday I have ever had!" Ted said.

*Jamie Federick is a member of 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

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



## The great gift of enabling home ownership

Most of you are familiar with the work and ministry of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat began almost over 45 years ago in Americus, Ga., when Millard and Linda Fuller, along with Dr. Clarence Jordan, began working on the problem of substandard housing.

They eventually developed the idea of building homes with volunteer labor and mostly donated materials. Future homeowners were also asked to contribute approximately 350 hours of “sweat equity” before occupancy.

As Habitat puts it, “we are a partnership, not a giveaway program.”

Most revolutionary of all, Jordan and the Fullers refused to charge interest on the mortgage. Homeowners are given a no-interest, 20-year mortgage loan (today, between \$60-70,000 depending on the cost of the lot).

As this loan is repaid, the money is used to purchase land and materials for other homes. Over the years, Habitat has continued this vision of no-interest loans and, to date, has helped over 3.5 million families secure decent, affordable housing worldwide.

The Kirk joined 11 other Garland County churches in this year’s annual “Apostles’ Build.” Our mission committee approved a \$5,000 gift to be used toward purchasing supplies for this new home.

In addition to the funding, our Kirk will also be asking for volunteers for the build that began this summer. The pandemic slowed the progress of the build, but there is still much to be done.

We are hoping to have a group of volunteers help in

### The Pastor’s Corner Bill Bailey



the months ahead. There are many, many jobs that need filling to build a home. If you are interested in helping, please contact Elder Harry Wakefield for more information.

We Presbyterians often speak about putting faith into action – what Millard Fuller calls the “Theology of the Hammer!”

More than simply talking about our faith, Habitat will give us all an opportunity to get involved: some of us through active service, and others through giving financially and prayer.

We know our giving makes a tremendous difference to the life of a family enabled to purchase a home for the first time. Over time, decent homes and home ownership transform neighborhoods and communities.

In the end, those of us who give will discover the truth of the gospel again – “it is better to give than to receive.” Do keep this project and all who participate in your prayers.

## Holy Communion just one of many adjustments



Pastor Bill Bailey offering Communion on July 5.

### By Nancy Patton

Many important parts of the worship experience have been affected as we have adapted worship to the safety restrictions posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Passing the peace, passing of the plate for offerings, and time to meet have changed to keep participants safe. Perhaps no aspect has been impacted greater than celebrating Holy Communion.

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines approached the first Sunday in July with great anticipation as we gathered for the Lord’s Supper. It is an

important time in our worship, one we had not been able to share since the first Sunday in March.

For many of us, the Sacrament of Communion is one of the “thin places,” a time when we feel closest to God. Although our practice of passing the bread and juice was replaced with the distribution of pre-filled wafer and juice cups, the familiar Words of Institution and the breaking of bread were a comforting reminder that God’s love is unending, and God’s promises are sure.

*Nancy Patton is Moderator of the Worship Committee.*

## Session retreat will be in Hoffius Hall this year

### Church statistics as of July 10, 2020:

Members – 284

Family units – 195

### Loss of Kirk members:

**Barbara Keegan** passed away on June 27 in Hot Springs. A memorial service was July 10 in the Kirk Memorial Garden.

**Bruce Hill** passed away Oct. 1, 2019. He was interred on July 20 in the Columbarium in the Kirk Memorial Garden.

### Kirk opens doors for services

The Kirk opened its doors for in-person Saturday and Sunday services in June. The guidelines outlined by the state and local governments for the prevention of Covid-19 were followed by Nancy Patton, Bob Morrow, Barron Gage, and Pastor Bill Bailey when preparing the outline for safely opening the Kirk doors to the congregation.

Members are encouraged to wear a mask and avoid physical contact with other members while attending services. Attendance at the Saturday service has been 20-22 attendees, and 40-55 attend the Sunday service.

Everyone is invited to attend either service if they do not have health problems making them at particular risk. Online services will continue to be offered for an indefinite period of time.



### Annual Session retreat

The coronavirus threat led to the Session to not have its annual retreat at Ferncliff this year. Instead, Session will meet in Hoffius Hall in October. If the virus is no longer a problem in 2021, Session will return to having an annual retreat at Ferncliff.

### Kirk in the Pines Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship

Congratulations to Taylor Brooke Wilson for receiving the Kirk's Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship for the year 2020-2021. She is the granddaughter of Mary Nelson White.

Taylor is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Dunn, N.C., and will be attending North Carolina State University.

*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:

Sally Fink – 922-9622

For other congregational-care needs:

Sally Fink – 922-9622

Kirk office – 922-1333

### For staff (home numbers):

Pastor Bill Bailey – 984-0445

Visitation Coordinator Janie Smith – 922-7548

## Email addresses:

Pastor Bill Bailey – [kirkpastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkpastor@sbcglobal.net)

Kirk secretary:

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth – [kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net)

Kirk business administrator:

Beverly Schaumburg – [kirkfin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirkfin@sbcglobal.net)

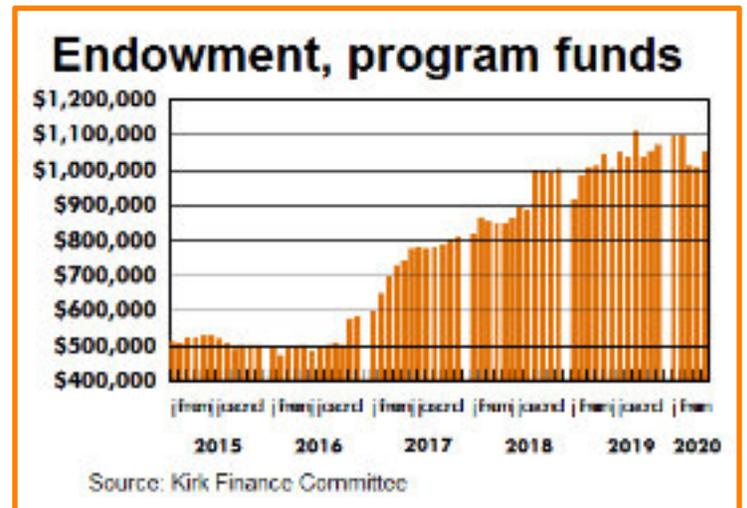
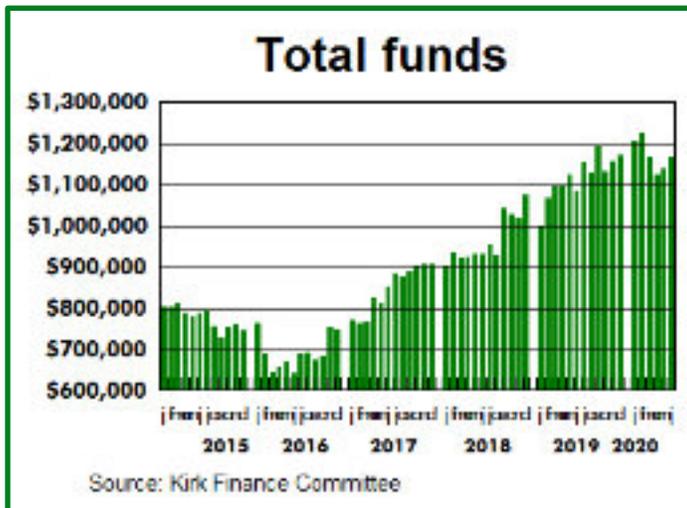
## Website:

[Kirkinthepines.org](http://Kirkinthepines.org)

# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

## Year to date as of June 30, 2020

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 36,370	\$ 43,875	\$ 218,219	\$ 229,003
Disbursements	\$ 37,375	\$ 55,091	\$ 224,260	\$ 186,840
<b>Building Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,218	\$ 3,303	\$ 25,308	\$ 29,039
Disbursements	\$ 4,660	\$ 1,893	\$ 27,960	\$ 25,737
<b>Total all funds:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 40,588	\$ 47,178	\$ 243,528	\$ 258,042
Disbursements	\$ 42,035	\$ 56,984	\$ 252,220	\$ 212,577
Checking balance				\$ 115,590
<b>Special funds:</b>				
Memorial fund				\$ 59,098
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 247,362
Programs fund				\$ 52,008
Endowment fund				\$ 635,542
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				<u>\$ 58,936</u>
<b>Total special funds on May 31, 2020</b>				<b>\$ 1,052,946</b>
<b>Total all funds:</b>				<b>\$1,168,536</b>



## \$246 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign.

A total of \$246 was collected in June.

If you wish to give more than a dollar, please use the envelopes in the pew racks when their use resumes.

We are always grateful for your generous gifts and prayers.

## Kirk's annual Fish Fry on Aug. 20 canceled

Restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic led planners to cancel the annual Kirk Fish Fry.

It had been scheduled for Aug. 20.

Stay safe.

## Mary White's granddaughter wins Kirk scholarship

By Pat Kuntz

Taylor Brooke Wilson has been chosen to receive the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship for the year 2020-2021.

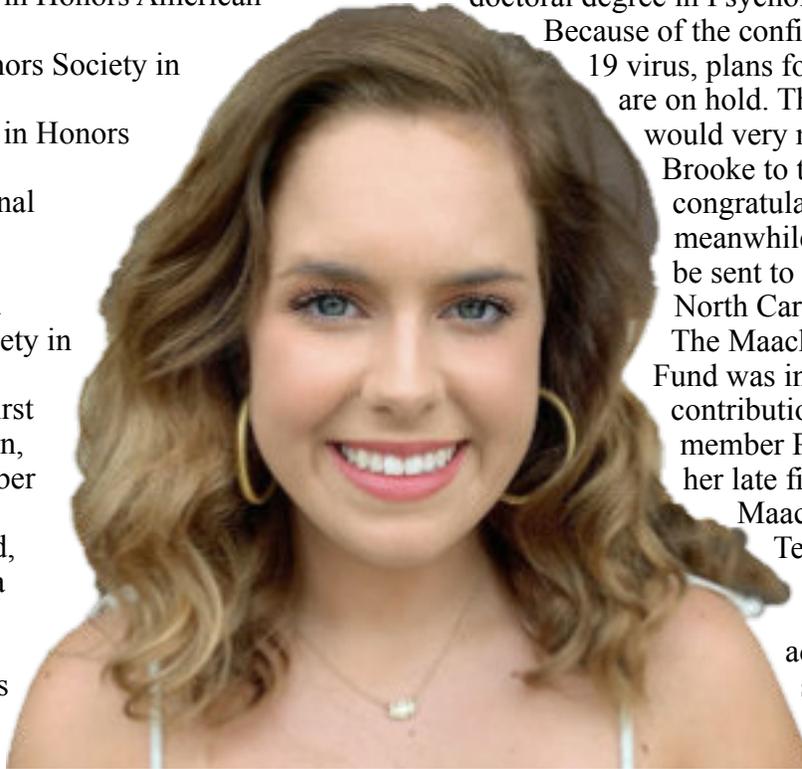
Brooke lives in Dunn, N.C., and graduated from Triton High School in Erwin, N.C. She is the granddaughter of Mary Nelson White, a long-time member of the Kirk.

Brooke has an outstanding resume of academic achievement throughout her high-school career including:

- Highest Average Award in English I and Physical Science in Grade 9.
- Highest Average Award in Honors American History.
- Accepted for Alpha Honors Society in Grade 10.
- Highest Average Award in Honors Anatomy and Physiology.
- Accepted into the National Technical Honors Society.
- Beta Club in Grade 11.
- Accepted into Phi Theta Kappa College Honors Society in Grade 12.

Brooke is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Dunn, where she is an active member of the Youth Fellowship program. She also organized, publicized, and carried out a massive, school-wide food donation and packing event under the Backpack Buddies program for Erwin/Gentry Elementary School and Triton High School.

While in the 10th grade, Taylor Brooke Wilson was awarded the Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship. (Lauren Wilson photo)



Junior Varsity Volleyball team which won the Conference Tournament. She also ran Spring Track and received Academic-All Conference. Brooke was the Governor's School Nominee at the State Level in the 11th grade while also working 15 hours a week at Little Ivy League Daycare.

She was treasurer of the Student Government Association for the Senior Class, secretary of the Dunn Juniores, treasurer of the Health Occupational Students of America, and continued to work 15 hours a week at the Little Ivy League Daycare in her senior year.

Brooke will be attending North Carolina State University this fall. Her long-term goal is to obtain a doctoral degree in Psychology.

Because of the confines posed by the Covid-19 virus, plans for a reception for Brooke are on hold. The Scholarship Committee

would very much like to introduce Brooke to the congregation and congratulate her in person, but meanwhile, a check for \$2,400 will be sent to her student account at North Carolina State University. The Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship Fund was initially established with a contribution of \$30,000 by Kirk member Pat Ormsbee in honor of her late first husband Kenneth Maack. The fund is held at

Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The scholarship is administered by a subcommittee of the Education Committee of Kirk in the Pines.

**Pat Kuntz is Moderator of the Kirk Education Committee.**

## \$8,210 raised in July for new Second Mile Giving

Thanks to all who have responded to the Kirk's Mission new initiative – *Second Mile Giving*.

Total gifts collected through July 21 are close to \$27,000, including \$8,210 received in July.

A very generous anonymous offer was made to match gifts received after July 1, 2020.

We are grateful for your generosity. If you are interested in making a gift, make checks payable to Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines and indicate on the memo line "2nd Mile Giving."



## Quilt of stories in Hoffius Hall made in 1993-94

By Susan Morrow

Crown of Thorns, Bethlehem Star, Tree of Life, Jacob's Ladder, Lily of the Field, Storm at Sea – all names with biblical references and also names of traditional quilt block patterns passed down from generation to generation.

I have often passed by the quilted wall hanging in Hoffius Hall and only given a glance in its direction. But on one occasion I stopped to really look and even peeked at the label on the back. The quilt label identifies the name, *A Christian Journey*, date 1993-94, and the makers' names with original signatures.

Quilt makers Dottie Isaacson, Marilyn Seitz, Sheila Stanley, and Sheri Swan are listed along with numerous other Kirk members from 26 years ago.

After asking several Kirk members, a scrapbook was located which tells the story behind the quilt. A Spiritual Journey through the Arts was the program for the Presbyterian Women of the Kirk in 1993-94. This year-long spiritual journey culminated with the creation of the quilt now hanging in Hoffius Hall.

*A Christian Journey* features 12 biblical block designs set "on point" within the inner dark blue rectangle. Each pictorial design symbolizes a biblical theme or story.

My favorite is Storm at Sea (middle of the second row), a traditional American pattern from the late 1800s. The name Storm at Sea suggests trouble and tribulation. The biblical reference is from Luke when Jesus calmed the raging storm on the lake after being awakened by the

## Jackson House getting help from Food Basket

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

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. The generosity of the Kirk congregation never ceases to amaze.

The Mission Committee appreciates your help with this worthwhile ministry.



*A Christian Journey*, a quilted wall hanging, was unveiled in 1994 in Hoffius Hall by Sheila Stanley (left) and Ruth Lauther.

disciples as their small craft was tossed about by the wind and waters.

At the quilt unveiling in May 1994, Alma Frohlin wrote: "This quilt is symbolic of our creativity, our ability to work as a unit, to reach out and share with one another our God-given gifts."

Now that I know the story behind the quilt hanging in Hoffius Hall, I see a signpost of faith pointing the way from generation to generation -- a way that delights in the artistic gifts which God so graciously gives.

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

## Open the Coffee Closet and honorably select a favorite brew or tea

The Coffee Closet is open in Hoffius Hall!

You will find a variety of products including organic ground and whole bean regular and decaffeinated coffee and tea.

Prices are posted on the back of the closet door. We are using the honor system for your purchase so please place your payment in the mug on the shelf in the closet.

Enjoy good coffee!  
Read good books!



## CCMC has tools, but needs help getting word out

By John Davis and Bruce Dale

You may already know Arkansas ranks 48th in the country with a 19.1-percent poverty level, and 20.9 percent of Garland County residents are living in poverty. That translates to about one in every three children in Garland county.

In the Fountain Lake School District, more than 70 percent of the children qualify for assisted breakfast and lunches. In Jessieville, the number is about 80 percent.

We live in an oasis of plenty surrounded by poor and under-served people, many of whom have been hit especially hard by the loss of jobs and services due to the pandemic.

Christian Cooperative Ministry and Clinic (CCMC) serves these communities by providing three critical needs: Poverty reduction, health-care services, and case management.

Poverty reduction is addressed through training and counseling to help their clients move to a more stable and productive life by breaking the generational poverty cycle.

Health-care services include medical, dental, vision, and pharmacy services to the uninsured and under-insured clients.

And case management includes regular meetings with clients to provide guidance to obtain needed resources and services.

So, life skills training, medical assistance, and guidance are what distinguish CCMC.

Established in 1997 by Dr. John Wayne Smith, CCMC has grown and matured as it built partnerships with many local physicians, hospitals, and other service providers to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for those people in need.

Sharon Morel, the Clinic Director, described the impact of the coronavirus on their operations as severe.



### A look at our Missions

Because volunteers stopped coming to assist the clinic it was closed for several weeks. Social distancing and other operational guidelines made it necessary to reconfigure and reduce medical clinic hours and operations.

Most medical diagnoses are done over the phone five days a week. The medical clinic is open two days a week for patient visits, but the process is slow and cumbersome due to the precautions taken before, during, and after patient visits.

So, the number of patients they can see directly has been reduced substantially. CCMC staff hopes to re-open soon the medical clinic one night each month for dental and medical procedures.

In an interview, Kim Carter, executive director of CCMC, said the pandemic has meant many more potential clients for case management.

“People living on the edge from paycheck to paycheck are now really hurting and they don’t know where to turn for help,” Carter said.

“We have no funding for getting the message to them. Any additional funding we get will be used first for a communications campaign to get clients on a path for help through our case-management capabilities.

“We must become more accessible to needy families during this difficult time so we can get them stabilized and on a better path forward.”

Kirk in the Pines’ *Second Mile Initiative* is a way we can help CCMC step up their game.

There is help for families in crisis, but they need to know what is available. CCMC has programs to help but they need financial support to get the message out. Your gift to the *Second Mile Initiative* will allow CCMC to help many more families living on the edge. *Mathew 22:36-39:*

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind.’

“This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

***John Davis and Bruce Dale are members of the Kirk’s Mission Committee.***



Kim Carter (center), executive director of Cooperative Christian Ministries, accepts a Kirk donation from John Davis (left) and Bruce Dale.

# Presbyterian Church USA assembly meets on Zoom

By Dotty Rector

It was a very unusual 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA this year.

Originally scheduled to take place over 10 days in late June in Baltimore with more than 600 commissioners attending, instead it took place as a three-day virtual meeting on the computer.

Attendees met from 10 a.m. until about 6:30 p.m. This was all due, of course, to the coronavirus.

Theme of the Assembly was “Lamentations to Hope.” And the commissioners found much to lament:

- The coronavirus pandemic.
- The loss of jobs and the economic effects.
- Racial tension and the murder of George Floyd.
- And the loss to Baltimore of the fruits of their preparation labors.

But about hope? As the Assembly wore on, hope was felt like more a matter of conviction.

Kirk member Ruth Hamilton was elected by our Presbytery to be one of four Arkansas Presbytery commissioners to the Assembly. She was looking forward to the fellowship of so many kindred spirits, all worshiping and discussing and voting on important issues.

It was a disappointment it didn't work out that way. Nevertheless, she spent days preparing for the meeting. Daily prayers were sent out electronically for 180 days preceding the conference, also a Bible study of Lamentations.

To make some new acquaintances, small, diverse groups met electronically. Ruth also studied business issues and background materials. She received training on how to use the electronics.

Ruth was honored to be chosen as a commissioner and felt the conference was very well organized.

“Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I'd be a part of God's work of the Church in such a scope,” she said. To hear Presbyterians from all over discuss issues was very moving. It would be even more impactful in person.

Because of the all-electronic venue, scores of important issues were deferred to the next Assembly in 2022. These include climate change, gun control, immigration, mental health, and social justice. This year, the skeleton agenda dealt mainly with time-sensitive issues.



The first order of business was to elect co-moderators for the next two years: Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart, a Native American from Minnesota, and the Rev. Gregory Bentley, an African American from Alabama. The chief ecclesiastical officer of the assembly is the Stated Clerk, J. Herbert Nelson. He was re-elected to that position. He is often the spokesman for the church in public, also responsible for keeping church records and much more.

Nelson helped identify signs of hope.

In times of crisis, there is opportunity, he said. We have been forced to make changes to deal with present reality. We have an unprecedented opportunity to re-think how we do ministry. We can become stronger.

“The church will not be the same,” says Ruth. Today the church focuses on a building and a traditional service. That needs to be re-thought, she said.

Technology also has taken on a new dimension in the church.

Hope means confidence, expectation, faith, belief, conviction, assurance. We hope God is doing a new thing. We can have hope in our Lord. We can be excited about our future, our changed and changing future, trusting in Him.

*Dotty Rector is on the Communication Committee.*

## Share your newsletter

To spread the good word about the Kirk, we urge you to forward copies of our newsletter to your friends, relatives and others who might be a prospective member. Let them see each month what we're all about.

It's easy to do. When the office sends you the email each month with the newsletter .pdf file attached, just forward the email to those who you think would like to know about our church.

Many members do this with a note calling attention to a story on a particular page, such as an upcoming concert. Others save the .pdf file on their computers so they can look things up later, such as birthdays and anniversaries.

Help with our “member outreach” program and share *A Voice in the Pines* with others.

## He has an urge to just say I'm happy to be here

Have you ever put off doing something you really want to do and you're just not sure why? The particular thing I now put off I actually did once.

Prior to worship service each Sunday morning, the Rev. Bill Bailey leaves the rostrum and stands in the center aisle to welcome the congregation and bring focus to specific upcoming events for study, worship or service.

Often, but not always, when he gives the opportunity to introduce visitors, he adds the phrase, "or someone who just wants us to know you're here." Following a lengthy hospitalization, I responded on such an occasion by standing to report I was very pleased to be present.

I had missed this Kirk, its people, the music, Bill's messages – the whole worshipping and fellowship experience.

Later one individual voiced pleasure in my acknowledgment.

I have been a part of this Kirk for nearly 15 years. Every time Bill tacks that phrase to his invitation I feel tempted. This welcoming Kirk is now, for me, filled with many good friends as well as fellow seekers/believers.

Under Randy and Donna's guidance, the music excels, and Bill's messages with spiritual counsel and encouragement is unparalleled. Why wouldn't we all stand weekly?

Covid19 keeps me home. My pre-existing conditions are legion. I am one of those grateful for continued virtual services.

I miss, as well, the full experience – handshakes, hugs, banter, teas and crumpets – the assurance of when two or three are gathered in His name, He is among us.

I want to remember that Kirk until it's back. Then, when Bill adds that phrase again, I and perhaps others may stand up and say so.

*Lowell Gardner*



## Virtual services have added some normalcy

Dear Randy, Kirk staff, and volunteers:

I want to express my deepest appreciation for the continued efforts you and so many others have put forth to enable our Kirk family to continue to worship in these past months.

The extra work, thoughts, plans, and prayers to bring Sunday mornings into our homes has allowed us to somehow find normalcy amidst this chaos.

A special thanks to Sharon Gardner who makes the virtual services possible.

Although we are in Minnesota for the summer, we look forward to our return in October to reunite with our church family. It is a difficult time with difficult choices. We long to gather to worship, sing with our choir, and miss our friends.

Each of us has to make decisions based on our personal situations. Thank you for continuing the option for virtual services even though the church doors have reopened, allowing the congregation a choice.

The journey has been longer than we'd hoped, but through the dedication of Pastor Bill, Sharon Gardner, the vocalists, musicians, the Session, you and Donna, we have been given a gift to continue to worship and feel connected during this isolating time.

*Linda Heitz*

**Kirk choir member**

## PW Women stay safe, cancel September Gathering

**By Vicki Rosenquist**

The Kirk's Presbyterian Women's new year was to begin in September with a guest speaker and luncheon.

Because of the continuing concern for everyone's health and safety, the PW Coordinating Team has decided to cancel the September Gathering. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Carol Clark, will be invited to speak at our December Gathering.

In other news, the Coordinating Team met in June to put together the 2020-2021 PW Handbook, so we are prepared and ready to begin Circle meetings when it is safe to do so.

During these uncertain times, it is difficult to make plans for October and beyond, but we will keep you updated about PW news through this newsletter, church emails, and phone calls from your circle leaders.

We on the Coordinating Team pray you are staying safe and well in these uncertain times, and we will be able to once again gather as women of Faith soon.

*Vicki Rosenquist is PW Moderator.*

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm says it all in these dark times

In times like these, confusing times, disorienting times, we often turn to what is familiar and reassuring. For many of us in our times of greatest need, we turn to the 23rd psalm which most of us can recite by heart.

Yet, while familiarity can breed contempt, in this case, it may lead only to a reduced appreciation for the sweeping significance of this jewel of a psalm. And like a jewel, the psalm has many facets.

In *The Message of the Psalms*, Walter Brueggemann writes of the 23rd psalm, saying “the grip it has on biblical spirituality is deep and genuine. It is such a simple statement that it can bear its’ own witness without comment.”

Bernhard Andersen, also a scholar of the Psalms, notes the “profound simplicity and matchless beauty” of this psalm, and adds: “No single psalm has expressed more powerfully many people’s prayer of confidence out of the depths to the God whose purpose alone gives meaning to the span of life, from womb to tomb.”

In a mere six verses, Psalm 23 is a seemingly perfect expression of the faith of Israel in their relationship with the Lord, Yahweh.

The psalm is designated as a psalm of David, meaning by David, for David, to David, or in the manner of David?

Authorities are not sure.

I prefer to think of it as words “put in the mouth” of David by the psalmist in keeping with David’s faith and the faith of Israel.

The beginning of the psalm speaks of “the Lord,” (Yahweh) as a shepherd who leads his sheep which recalls the shepherd king, David, as well as Moses and Jacob, and for the Christian, the parable of the good shepherd and “I am the good shepherd,” spoken by Jesus in the gospel of John.

Like the shepherd, God is spoken of in the third person: “He makes, He restores, He leads.”

An abrupt transition follows with the threat of darkest dark where God is addressed personally, and directly, as “you” (Thou), with “you are with me,” and



## Carnegie Corner

By Bob Morrow

thereafter with “your rod and staff, you prepare, you anoint.”

The psalm returns to a statement of overarching faith regarding dwelling in the house of “the Lord” (Yahweh) forever.

Brueggemann provides a useful context for understanding the 23rd psalm within his classification of the Psalms as psalms of orientation (the good times – thanksgiving), disorientation (the bad times – lament, imprecation), and new orientation (restoration to thanksgiving – salvation, confidence).

He considers Psalm 23 a psalm of new orientation spoken with the full awareness that all has not been and is not always well.

But, in a sense, Psalm 23 carries us through all three; from orientation (v1-3), through dark disorientation (v4), to new orientation (v5-6).

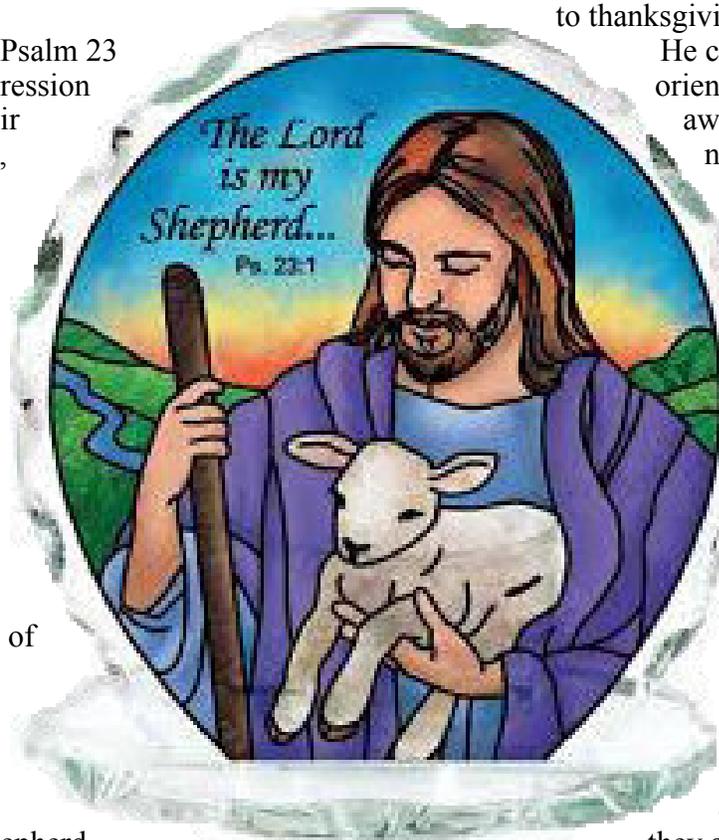
And so, the psalmist expresses extreme confidence in God to provide for us, be with us through the deepest darkness (valley of the shadow), and to bless us (anoint) and celebrate with us as we remain together with God forever.

According to Brueggemann: “It is God’s companionship that transforms every situation. It does not mean there are no

deathly valleys, no enemies. But they are not capable of hurt, and so the powerful loyalty and solidarity of Yahweh comfort, precisely in situations of threat.”

I confess my ability to appreciate the shepherd metaphor is limited and much less profound than would be true for a Semitic worshiper. I have seen sheep, but I have never known a shepherd, and can only understand shepherding abstractly.

But, closer to home, I have seen examples of





Dr. Bob Morrow (center) was surrounded June 29 by past and present Elders as he was installed as Moderator of the Communication Committee. (Jamie Federick photo)



## Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
 he leads me beside quiet waters,  
 3 He restores me.  
 He leads me along the right paths  
 for his name's sake.  
 4 Even though I walk  
 through the darkest valley,  
 I will fear no evil,  
 for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff,  
 comfort me.  
 5 You prepare a table before me  
 in the presence of my enemies.  
 You anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.  
 6 Surely your goodness and mercy will  
 follow me  
 all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
 forever.

Adapted from the New International  
 Version (NIV)  
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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm offers much in these dark times

*Continued from page 10*

caring in the extreme.

An elderly couple comes to mind. The wife, once a beautiful, competent, in-charge person is now gracefully diminished and frail. Lacking short-term memory and a large part of her long-term memory, she wakes each day and asks, "What am I supposed to do today?"

Her husband who is blessed with full capacity provides for her and keeps her in the familiar green pastures of her home and the still waters of her community. He is her companion in the darkness of confusion and provides reassurance, again and again.

He provides her meals and meets her physical needs. He blesses her with dignity. It could be said her cup is filled to the brim and she is surrounded by goodness and mercy.

With great simplicity, Psalm 23 provides a beautiful statement of faith in the God who cares for His own as a shepherd cares for His sheep, remains with His own through the darkest darkness, and blesses His own as a host welcomes an honored guest.

With such faith in the caring Lord, "Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life" as we dwell in the presence of God forever.

*The Message of the Psalms* by Walter Brueggemann can be found in the Kirk library along with *Reflections on the Psalms* by C.S. Lewis, and *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty Third Psalm* by Harold Kushner.



Walter and Barbara Fuquay, Bob and Vianne Huff, Gail Salmen, Bill and Barbara Worthley (not pictured) enjoyed an evening of getting to know each other on July 7. Some of the topics discussed at the Shepherd Group 1 get-together were: "How did you and your spouse meet?" "Where did you move from when you came to the Village?" and "What was your occupation?" So now we know each other a little better! *(Barbara Worthley photo)*

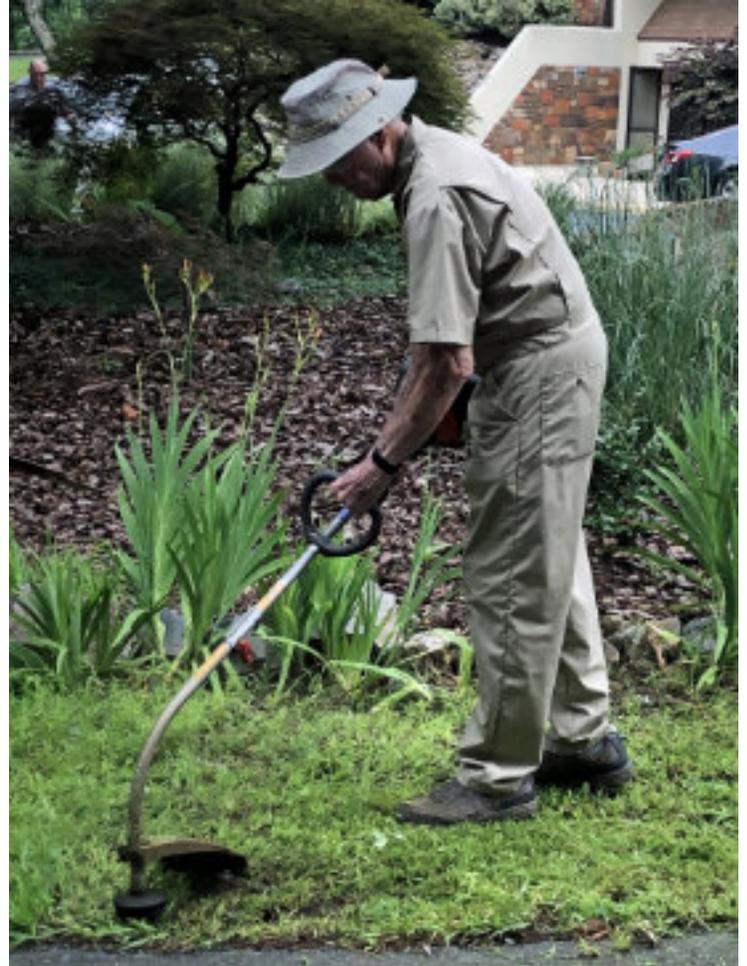
# Work day



Master gardener Rosalyn Halbert (left photo) was caring for the garden at the entrance to the sanctuary parking lot, as the team took a break (from left): Sexton Chip Johnson, Tom Hayek, Dick Massey, Mel Kuntz, Priscilla Hayek, and Becky Wakefield. *(Bob Morrow photos)*



Jim Adams (above) uses a leaf blower to clean Kirk property along Asturias Drive while Dick Massey (right) trims the grass.



## Let flowers honor someone you love

Are you interested in sponsoring the Sanctuary flowers to honor or remember a loved one? The flowers are yours to take home after the service. The 2020 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board in Hoffius Hall.

Contact Sandy Adams at 951 201-4093 ([sandyadams62@suddenlink.net](mailto:sandyadams62@suddenlink.net)) or the Church office at 922-1333 if you are interested in sponsoring flowers. The cost is \$39 for sanctuary flowers and \$10 for a rosebud. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines with the words "Kirk Flower Fund" in the memo section of your check.

Flower donations will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.



Tony and Barbara Booth celebrated their 57th anniversary by providing flowers for the Kirk sanctuary. *(Bob Morrow photo)*



Visitation coordinator Janie Smith has left many Heartprints of compassion, understanding, and love in the lives of Kirk members. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

## Heartprints

Whatever our hands touch – we leave fingerprints! On walls, on furniture, doorknobs, dishes, books – there's no escape! As we touch, we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today, help me leave Heartprints. Heartprints of compassion, of understanding and love. Heartprints of kindness and genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor, or a runaway daughter, or an anxious mother, or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today to leave Heartprints. And if someone should say "I felt your touch," may that someone sense YOUR LOVE touching them through ME!

*From Gifts for Your Soul, published by the Kirk's Congregational Care Committee.*

## Come and get it ... soup's on, along with lots of other good stuff

Attention Kirk family!

Soups, chowders, and casseroles are available for taking out in the Hoffius Hall freezer.

The building is open daily so come and pick up the items of your choosing.

Although there is no charge for the items, donations are accepted and appreciated. Questions or special requests? Call Carol Clark at 915-8497.



# Happy dates



## Birthdays

Aug. 1	Earl Mulley	Aug. 10	Frank Leeming	Aug. 23	Pat Koller
Aug. 2	Janna Lyndon Suzanne New	Aug. 11	Barb Henry	Aug. 25	Betty Powell
Aug. 3	Barbara McAnarney	Aug. 12	Edie Loveday	Aug. 27	Cynthia Morgan
Aug. 5	Debbie Brod	Aug. 13	LuDean Walston	Aug. 28	Jim Hess Pat McPheters
Aug. 7	Art Volkema	Aug. 14	Beverly Carpenter	Aug. 29	Bill Reynolds
Aug. 8	Sharon Hogue Judy Stewart	Aug. 18	Shirley Freeman- Stollsteimer	Aug. 30	Barbara Harris-Chambliss
		Aug. 23	Carol Clark		

## Anniversaries

Aug. 1	Donna and Randy Toney	39 years	Aug. 20	Kathy and Joe Martin	7 years
Aug. 4	Teresa and Samuel Arant Beth and Ted Samsel	41 years 64 years	Aug. 23	Marilyn and Jerral Johnson Judy and Duane Sonnenburg	63 years 61 years
Aug. 6	Eleanor and Donald Elsenheimer	60 years	Aug. 26	Mary Ann and Bill Reynolds	58 years
Aug. 10	Joyce and Paul Hayek	62 years	Aug. 30	Emily and Dennis Faulk Earl and Barbara Mulley	62 years 33 years
Aug. 11	Doris and Carl Simmons	53 years			
Aug. 19	Nancy and Jim Patton	42 years			

## Music not a performance, but an enhancement

When is playing an instrument in front of a group of people, not a performance?

Randy and Dona Toney insist our choir and guest musicians do not perform for an audience. Rather than a performance, the music is an offering to enhance the worshiper's experience of God.

“Our worship services allow participants to worship by thoughtful and challenging sermons, scripture readings, liturgy, and music,” says Randy.

In addition to the choral music, the Kirk is so fortunate there are instrumentalists who love music and love to play it at our church.

Bill Morgan has often soulfully



### Choir Notes

**Dotty Rector**

played his saxophone to the glory of God and to send our spirits soaring.

We have also been inspired by Kathy Ogilvie and her violin. And what about Rebecca Bingham? Isn't she wonderful?

“She loves to play her cello at the Kirk,” says Randy. Her mother is Gloria Pickett, a Kirk choir soprano.

“All musicians like to bring their best to offer to God,” says Donna.

So, when some in the congregation are inspired to clap for the music, it is not for the performance, but rather a response to feeling the spirit of God through the music.



Violinist Kathy Ogilvie. (Jamie Federick photo)

## Van Stone, Reeves win closest-to-the-pin honors

By Jim Hess

Kirk Sunday golfers basked in the warmth of July's heat for a much-needed outing July 12 on DeSoto Golf Course. Dinner at El Jimador Restaurant after golf completed the day.

Congratulations to the following Games of Skill winners:

Closest to the hole – Helen Van Stone and Darrell Reeves.

Longest Putt – Jan Holtberg and Ed Russell.

Save the date for Sunday, Aug. 9, our next Kirk Sunday Golf Group event. The golf course and restaurant



will be announced on your sign-up email.

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.

We are couples 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 second 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.**

## 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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