

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

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Pandemic changes how Pastor Bailey shepherds his Kirk flock

By Bob Morrow

All of us have made adjustments because of the coronavirus pandemic. In the beginning, we didn't comprehend how much would change. But slowly, inexorably, change in most aspects of life has come to all of us.

On the other hand, one constant has been the ministry of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. And despite the disruptions, Pastor Bill Bailey has continued to serve our congregation through it all.

We wondered how he's managed and how his work has changed. Following is a virtual interview with Pastor Bailey in which he describes how his ministry has been affected by the pandemic.

How has your job changed in the last 10 months?

The most apparent change has been the inability to visit Kirk members in hospitals and nursing homes. Out of an abundance of caution, hospitals have restricted



Pastor Bill Bailey is using the phone and email more as he adjusts his ministry in times of the pandemic. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

visitation to almost everyone except close family. Because I used to visit the hospitals and assisted-living facilities three or four times a week, this has been a big adjustment.

Now I rely more on e-mails and phone calls. I do the best I can to stay connected.

People continue to stop by the Kirk office, maybe even more so than before COVID-19. My guess is we are all weary of social

distancing, and people are hungry to reconnect with friends and others.

Still, I do what I can to stay connected. I have done a lot of pastoral care in the aisles of Walmart and Brookshires.

How does your workday differ from pre-pandemic times?

I'm not visiting hospitals in the afternoons. The other big scheduling change is preaching three times a week and recording

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
Begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
5 p.m. In Hoffius Hall

Wednesday Bible Study
9-10:30 a.m. Hoffius Hall



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



Lent comes early this year, and with changes

Most of you know the word “lent” is not found in the Bible. It comes from an Old English word related to our word “to lengthen,” referring to the time each spring when the days begin to get longer.

But the season we now call Lent has roots extending back to the third and fourth centuries after Christ.

In the early church, it marked a time of instruction for catechumens who were preparing for baptism at Easter. This was, at first, an extended time of instruction, but over time, it was eventually shortened to the “Forty Days” (not counting Sundays) we now celebrate leading up to Easter.

It is still an important season of self-searching and preparation for us as we reflect on our Christian faith. We still emphasize the themes of repentance, discipleship, and prayer as we seek to deepen our faith.

This year, Lent begins early, on Feb. 17. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, and out of an abundance of caution, we will not enjoy our traditional Lenten lunches of soup and bread. We will also not include our formal imposition of ashes during the Ash Wednesday service. We hope we can resume these next year.

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



Yes, we will have an Ash Wednesday service (without the ashes), but not the weekly Lenten services. As always, we invite you to join us and invite guests. Please wear your masks and keep appropriate social distance entering and exiting the Kirk.

We are planning to have our traditional Maundy Thursday worship service at 5 p.m. April 1. We will make some adjustments for communion as well as for extinguishing the candles but will include readings of Scripture and Holy Week hymns. We will have more details in next month’s newsletter.

Make plans to join us, in person or in spirit, as we journey together in this season of Lent.

Three online devotional resources for observing Lent

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17

- Lenten Devotionals from Pittsburgh Theological [Seminary](#)

https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1

- 365 Devotionals from the Presbyterian Church

d365.org

- God’s Gift of Shalom Makes Us One

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>



Pandemic issues still affecting Kirk activities

Church Statistics on Jan. 8:

Membership – 282

Family Units – 193

The following **members passed** during the last reporting period:

Marianna Helena Lund passed away on Nov. 29, 2020. She was a long-time member of the Kirk who had relocated to Golden Oaks Apartments in South Pasadena, Calif., to be nearer her daughter.

Helen Sheehan passed away on Dec. 23, 2020. A private memorial service was Dec. 25 in the Kirk Memorial Garden.

Jackie (Jacqueline) Herbst passed away on Jan. 3, 2021. Mrs. Herbst was a long-time member of the Kirk living in Belvedere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hot Springs.

The **2021 budget** was approved as presented by the Session.

Ash Wednesday

There is some question about placing ashes on the forehead during the Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17. It may be necessary to have the service without the imposition of ashes. The Worship Committee's primary concern is the safety of the congregation during the pandemic.

**The
Clerk's
Corner**



Jerral Johnson

Terms of Call

Terms of Call for the Rev. Bill Bailey were approved Jan. 17 in a called congregation meeting.

Second Mile Giving

The success of the Second Mile Giving program last year led the Mission Committee to continue the program in 2021. The Session approved this request.

Fall Picnic

The Kirk's Fall picnic is scheduled to be in September. The Session hopes this gathering will take place and continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our community.



Happy dates



Birthdays

Feb. 1	Pat Bellamy Carl Simmons	Feb. 11	Rosalyn Halbert Marilyn Johnson	Feb. 20	Tony Booth Ellen Wilborn
Feb. 3	Pat Ormsbee	Feb. 12	Jamie Federick Beth Sampsel	Feb. 22	Ruth Mattingly Barbara Mulley Carol Sue Williams
Feb. 4	Teresa Arant Karen Mallonee Greene Jay Wilborn	Feb. 13	Merilyn Seitz	Feb. 24	Judy Carroll Sylvia Gruben Joanne Hasper
Feb. 5	Earlene Higgins	Feb. 15	Elijah Bailey David Rosenquist	Feb. 27	Heinrich Eiler
Feb. 8	Burle Mattingly	Feb. 16	Fred Raskin	Feb. 28	Jane Moore Jim Cordell
Feb. 9	Becky Baldwin Darlene Slater	Feb. 17	Richard McPheters		
Feb. 10	Judy Corwin Marty Davis	Feb. 18	Bev Bullard Margery McIntosh		
		Feb. 19	Mike Seitz		

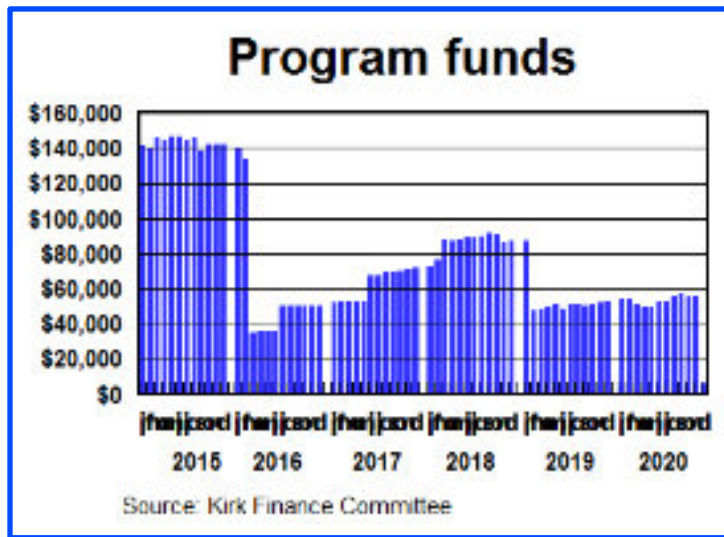
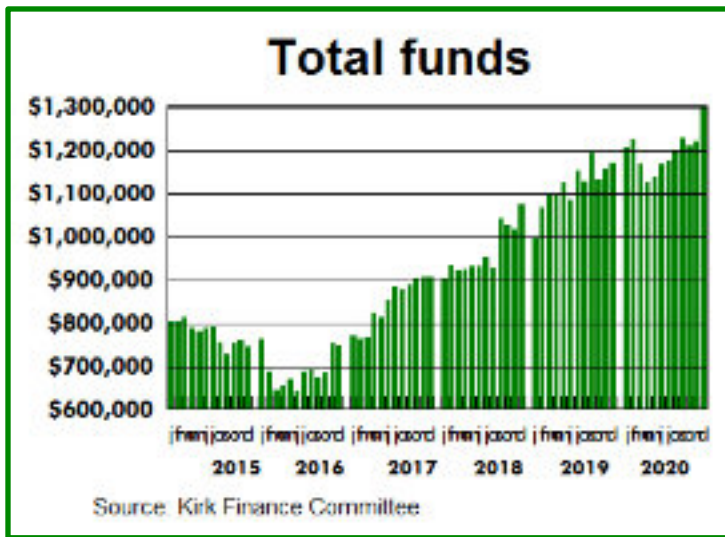
Anniversaries

Feb. 8	Debbie and Gary Brod	46 years	Feb. 18	Susan and Ken Unger	38 years
Feb. 9	Christine and Michael Hoagland	47 years	Feb. 24	Pat and Richard McPheters	31 years

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of December 31, 2020

	<u>Month</u>		<u>Year to date</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,370	\$ 38,173	\$ 436,437	\$ 459,697
Disbursements	\$ 37,375	\$ 52,375	\$ 448,520	\$ 432,443
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,218	\$ 8,087	\$ 50,619	\$ 50,668
Disbursements	\$ 4,660	\$ 4,305	\$ 55,920	\$ 46,083
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 40,588	\$ 46,260	\$ 487,056	\$ 510,365
Disbursements	\$ 42,035	\$ 56,680	\$ 504,444	\$ 478,526
Checking balance				\$ 118,066
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 68,588
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 275,739
Programs fund				\$ 6,360
Endowment fund				\$ 708,694
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 65,687
Total special funds (as of Nov. 30, 2020)				\$ 1,179,068



\$272 for Mission

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

A total of \$272 was collected in December.

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.

Check us out on Facebook

New pictures of church events are posted regularly by Jamie Federick on the Kirk's Facebook page. Be sure to "like us" when you visit.

If you'd like to join Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and choose a username and password.

Then look for Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.



Daffodils are a sure sign spring is coming, and so is work in and around the Kirk grounds. (Jamie Federick photo)

Mark Feb. 26 on your calendar for workday

Very soon we will begin preparing for the coming of Spring in our Memorial Garden and grounds.

We are tentatively planning a workday on Feb. 26, weather permitting. As usual, we will gather at the entrance of the Memorial Garden at 10 a.m. For the month of February, we will concentrate on spring leaf removal and administering Preen for weed control.

Daffodils begin to bloom later in February.

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 26!

Contributed by Priscilla Hayek, Moderator, Memorial Garden and Grounds Committee.



Holtbergs appreciate good wishes as Arnie recovers from virus

Dear Friends:

Jan and I are deeply grateful for your cards, thoughts, and prayers as I have struggled with the coronavirus in recent weeks.

To know we have not been alone during this challenging time has been more than reassuring. We are thankful we are part of a community of caring folks whose faith is evident and active.

Wishing you good health and fulfillment in the year ahead.

My warmest wishes,
Arnie Holtberg

Stewardship campaign draws to successful end

By Bill Bailey

Although the opportunity to pledge and tithe is always present, our formal stewardship campaign has drawn to a close. Perhaps, not surprisingly, the pledges for 2021 were approximately \$48,000 less than expected.

We believe the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting uncertainty about the future hurt pledging.

The Session is hoping the Kirk will return to regular worship and programs later this year as the vaccine roll-out progresses.

With all this in mind, the Session had to adjust the budget and decided to use some of our reserve monies to balance and approve the 2021 budget. The \$492,985 budget is balanced and essentially equal to our 2020 budget (\$487,056).

Session also was pleased to note that the Kirk's "Second Mile" mission giving in 2020 raised almost \$54,000 over and above the Kirk's planned budget for missions. The Session voted to continue the program in 2021.

We are all very grateful for the continued generosity and faithful giving of the Kirk congregation.

PW groups moving on with their monthly studies

In case you're wondering, yes, there will be Presbyterian Women gatherings for worship on March 8 and May 10, both at 11 a.m.

At this point, we don't know if there will be luncheons after either gathering. The coordinating team will decide at our February meeting whether to plan for a luncheon based on the status of the pandemic. We are pleased to announce Pastor Bailey will deliver the message for both gatherings.

Since the PW year began last September and ends in May, we are already through half our year!

Three of our circles are continuing to study from Horizons Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone*, a look at the 10 Commandments.

Circle four is finishing its study of *The*

Bible Jesus Read, and will begin studying *Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses*, by James Moore, in February. The book sounds interesting as well as humorous, and don't we all need some humor in our lives right now!

All PW circles will continue to meet on their regular days, times, and locations as indicated in the Kirk calendar (found at kirkinthepines.org), unless otherwise noted by their circle leaders.

If you are not in a circle but are interested in joining, please contact me at vtrose1@att.net or call me at 706 371-2877.

Contributed by Vicki Rosenquist, Moderator, Presbyterian Women.



Second Mile campaign extended, faces hurdles

After stunningly generous financial donations from Kirk members in 2020 helped keep local relief agencies afloat, the challenge will be even greater this year.

At their meeting Jan. 8, the Session voted to continue the Second Mile campaign in 2021. Harry Wakefield, Moderator of the Kirk Mission Committee, indicated needs will surpass what we saw in 2020.

"Local food banks are now competitively bidding for food from their suppliers because the demand has exceeded the supply," Wakefield said.

"Because of the higher demand for food, we can already see the local hunger situation has gotten worse." We expect the challenge in the first half of 2021

will be the COVID-19 surge that will test all of us and our capacity to help those who are suffering.

"We're off to a good start because our matching gift from 2020 has given us over \$17,000 to start the year, but we need much more," said Harry.

The Mission committee maintains close contact with the five local agencies we support as part of the Second Mile campaign, and the feedback is clear. The need has become more significant than we saw in 2020.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help those in our community who are suffering from the impact of COVID-19. Your donations support relief agencies providing for the hungry, abused, homeless, and medically underserved in our community.

Submitted by Bruce Dale, a member of the Missions Committee.

Hymn to Love

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,
It is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13, NIV



Jackson House getting help from Food Basket

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

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.



Examples of Clark Mowry's art include the western Tanager (right), male and female Cardinals (below left), and Rose Breasted Grosbeak (below right).



Mowrys using art instead of song in their ministry

By Barbara Worthley

For a number of years, Clark and Jean Mowry have taken their singing ministry to Kirk members and others who are shut-in or in hospitals and nursing homes. Clark and Jean are tenors and together they bring God's word in song to those confined.

After a few hymns sung as a duet, Clark ends the visit with his beautiful solo rendition of *The Lord's Prayer*.

When COVID made these visits impossible, Clark began planning another way to continue their ministry, using his hobby of drawing and painting birds and butterflies.

Clark produces a greeting card, and Jean writes a sentiment inside, and the cheerful card is mailed to the patient.

During his career as a high-school science teacher in Webster City, Iowa, Clark took a drawing class and discovered he really enjoyed drawing and painting birds.

After retiring and moving to Hot Springs Village in 2006, Clark enrolled in a watercolor class. Then he took an art class from Bev Carpenter, another Kirk member.

By this time, he had experimented with pen-and-ink drawings, colored pencil, water coloring and various combinations of the three mediums.

Clark designs and paints a 4x6-inch greeting card on watercolor paper that can be used for thank-you notes, birthdays, anniversaries, get-well wishes, or sympathy cards.

He gets most of his ideas from photographs in the *Birds & Blooms* magazine.

He has painted at least 40 species of birds and many butterflies. During the coronavirus shutdown, he has painted over 120 cards for use in their hospital, nursing home, and shut-in ministry.

Barbara Worthley is a member of the Communication Committee.



Pastor Bailey has had to adjust to the pandemic, and he misses the Kirk fellowship

Pastor Bailey teaching his weekly Bible study class. (*Jamie Federick photo*)

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the worship service on Wednesdays or Thursdays. For 45 years, I was used to the routine of beginning a sermon midweek and finishing it by Saturday. Now I must have it finished midweek. For an old preacher, this was/is an adjustment.

How has work changed with Presbytery?

I continued to serve on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry last year. We have done all our monthly meetings with ZOOM. Presbytery also meets twice a year via video.

I also serve as Moderator of First Presbyterian in Hot Springs. Their Session meets monthly, and I am required to meet with them in their sanctuary.

How are you holding up?

Like all of us, we are trying to get through this difficult time. I like to read, so these days of social distancing are probably not as hard on me as they are for some. I've done an enormous amount of reading this past year, just finishing a biography on Calvin and one on Kierkegaard. Also, I am currently

reading six commentaries on the Gospel of Mark.

Anne and I enjoy movies, so we are always looking for recommendations.

I try to make time to pray every day. I try to focus on faith rather than fear, modeling a non-anxious presence. I trust we will get through this together.

I'm also grateful for the many calls and letters of encouragement I receive from Kirk members.

Several Kirk members continue to ask me out for lunches. These have been a lifeline for me, as I cherish these friendships.

What has surprised you most about leading the congregation during this pandemic?

I'm amazed by all the work that continues to get done in the Kirk. Staff, elders, and Kirk members continue to do a great job of staying connected and reaching out to others.

I am surprised and proud of the Kirk's generous giving this past year. Especially the Kirk's response to the Second Mile initiative. This was a pleasant surprise.

I am surprised at how much I

have missed the Kirk fellowship – the coffee hour, potlucks, and programs.

Anne and I also miss dinners with friends and nights out sharing a meal and a bottle of wine. We are looking forward to when we can share meals again.

What are the new challenges?

Perhaps not new, but all of us continue to try to be faithful amidst the racial and political tensions at work in our world. How can we model grace towards others? How can we find common ground rather than dismiss others who disagree with us?

We all feel these pressures, and many of us are weary and discouraged. We must try to find our Lord's strength to be faithful.

How can we work remotely and stay connected? It's a challenge for all of us.

What can the congregation do to assist you or lighten your load?

Keep doing the things you are already doing. The Kirk is a fantastic congregation, and I feel blessed to be a part of it.

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

Greenhorns still cooking up love despite pandemic

By Bob Morrow

The Greenhorns, our Kirk's expert kitchen heroes, have continued to cook right through the coronavirus pandemic. Through their "Helping Hands" ministry, the group prepares and sends out approximately 25 meals monthly to Kirk members needing a helping hand.

When the pandemic arrived, the Greenhorns suspended their program for two months. They got going again when there was clarity on how to stay safe through social distancing and wearing masks.

Now, the 14 cooks meet on the second Tuesday of each month, wearing masks and observing appropriate social distancing, in the Kirk kitchen to prepare meals.

Their meals are distributed by the Congregational Care committee to Kirk members who sign up for the Helping Hands program.

Before the pandemic, the Greenhorns also prepared meals for Presbyterian Women luncheons. They hope this will again be possible as the restrictions on gatherings are lifted, and the pandemic wanes.

Hopefully, you've also heard about the Greenhorns' "Soups and More" program. Carol Clark said in 2020 approximately 600 servings of soup, casseroles, and more were prepared by the Greenhorns and others in the congregation.

Their dishes are available for anyone in need of a meal. Kirk members can find the Soups and More in the freezer in the kitchen and can take what they need for themselves or to share with others in need.

There is no charge for these lovingly prepared dishes. However, there's an envelope on the freezer for you to leave an offering of any amount to offset the cost of the meal. Anyone interested in contributing soups, casseroles, or more can contact Carol Clark at gcinhsv@att.net, or by telephone at 501 915-8497.

You might wonder, as I did, why the group calls itself the "Greenhorns."

According to Judy Rosenthal, many years ago, following a not-so-satisfactory catered meal at a Kirk gathering, former Kirk member Peggy Cook commented that "a bunch of greenhorns could do a better job than this!"



The Soups and More freezer in the Hoffius Hall kitchen is well supplied with soups, casseroles, and more ready to be shared. An envelope on the door is provided for offerings to offset the cost of the meal. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

The tongue-in-cheek name "Greenhorns" stuck, although the group has demonstrated that they are anything but greenhorns at sharing Christ's love through "feeding his sheep" (*John 21:17*).

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



Finding mushrooms after fleeing virus confines

By Bob Morrow

Like many Kirk members, Jim and Sandy Adams have had to “shelter in place” during the coronavirus pandemic. I caught up with Jim recently, and he shared how he and Sandy have gone about surviving these changing times.

It has been hard for them both, but especially Jim, who thrives on being with friends and family. They’ve always enjoyed taking walks on the many trails in Hot Springs Village, but now the walks are not just for exercise; they are to preserve sanity and break the monotony of staying home.

Jim, who is always good for a joke or two, quips that he has two favorite hobbies: photography and taking pictures. Sandy is also a credible photographer, and the two of them have developed a small obsession with taking photos of fungi they see on their daily walks in the Village.

“I’m always amazed at the variety of the mushrooms we see on our walks,” Jim says. “I don’t understand

what conditions lead to the sudden appearance of mushrooms where we didn’t see them before. And then, just as quickly as they appear and grow, they’re gone.”

Jim and Sandy’s story reminds me the adjustments we have had to make to stay healthy and survive the pandemic are not all bad. Jim says he often thinks of how hard dealing with the pandemic must be for those living in less favorable circumstances.

“We are so fortunate to live here in this beautiful place,” Jim said, “and we’re very thankful.”

The Adamses were happy to share the beauty of their collection of fungi photos with us all.

As I was wrapping up my conversation with Jim, he asked, “What do you call a mushroom that likes to party?”

“Uh, I don’t know,” I said.

Jim replied, “A really fun guy!”

I should have seen that coming.

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



**Photos by
Jim and
Sandy Adams**



Digging into the history of Valentine's Day

By Lowell Gardner

To Google "Valentine's Day" is to be introduced to Lupercalia, the ancient Roman festive ritual of February 13-15 in which a goat or dog is sacrificed with the bloody hide applied as a whip on a lottery selected woman for long term or festival-duration "mating."

During the third century A.D., the Emperor Claudius II, preferring unattached males as soldiers, decreed young men not be allowed to marry.

The Catholic Church, though unresponsive of the Lupercalia rite, resented the restriction. Legend delegates several priests named Valentine as martyred for defying the Emperor's decree. One of them is reported to have sent a note to his jailer's daughter on the eve of his death, signing it "From your Valentine."

Thus, the February Saint Valentine holiday was born.

The church has traditionally adopted pagan festive dates as their own. Dec. 25 (Christmas) was initially Sol Invictus (longer days following winter solstice) and the Roman Saturnalia Festival (Saturn: god of agriculture).

Easter coincided with the celebration of the spring goddess Eostre (Anglo-Saxon) or Ostara (German). Euro-American Valentine's Day is no different.

Capitalism wins out in the end. Hallmark introduced

the first Valentine's Day card in 1913. Now 145 million cards are exchanged annually.

What are we Christians to do with all this?

The ancient Greeks had three words translated by the word "love."

"Philos" signifies friendship from which we derive Philadelphia, brotherly love, or loyalty.

"Eros" identifies with romantic attachment or intimacy.

"Agape" is more far-reaching and encompassing. Agape is that which radiates from within, the spiritually engendered or that born from years of intimate nurturing.

Your Valentine celebration may have begun and functioned in the spirit of either or both of the first two. The lasting ones, regardless, ultimately mature to the third.

Agape is found in *I John 4:16*:

"And so we know and rely on the love (agape) God has for us. God is love (agape). Whoever lives in love (agape) lives in God and God in Him (NIV).

Lowell Gardner is former Communication Committee moderator.

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

A Voice in the Pines is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. It is produced and edited by the Kirk's Communication Committee – Bob Morrow, Moderator. Send comments or questions to: KirkinthePinesVoice@gmail.com



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