

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVII, Issue 7, July 2021

Big growth industry: Human trafficking

By **Susan Morrow**

The first Kirk in the Pines Education Committee event in over a year was an eye-opener.

Hayley Ross, Community Education Coordinator for PATH (Partners Against Trafficking Humans), led an information-packed session on the impact of human trafficking. She said it is the fastest-growing criminal industry worldwide. PATH's mission, she said, is the health and healing of trafficking victims.

Who are the victims?

Three of four are female. Fifty percent of those are children. The average age of a victim in the U.S. is 12 to 14 years old. In Asia, the average age is 7 to 9.

Most victims are not kidnapped. They are entrapped in the trafficking trade through fraud and coercion.

PATH provides trafficking victims stepping stones to recovery with a safe environment and rehabilitation services.

As the only day program in Arkansas and one of only two programs in the U.S., it provides specialized services for survivors of sexual abuse and sex trafficking.

The approach has three elements



Hayley Ross at the Kirk. (*Jamie Federick photo*)

– therapy, education, and life-skills training.

Licensed therapists, counselors, and case-workers provide a path to recovery along with trained mentors and personal coaches. Viable education programs are offered for many victims who never finished high school, along with Christ-centered recovery programs.

Job-skill training is integral to creating the prospect of future success. Fun sessions for survivors include creating art, gardening, hiking, and trips to local museums.

Hayley emphasized PATH provides victims a way back to a new lifestyle of health and healing through Christ in the lead along with our help.

So, what can we do to counter the victimization of people in situations of trafficking and exploitation?

Education – PATH offers Victim Services Training for those interested in looking more closely into the world of trafficking.

Volunteering – You can assist with activities in the day program, offer to tutor, or become a mentor.

Donations – Whether it's a one-time donation or an ongoing monthly one, your dollars help care for victims of human trafficking. PATH cherishes every dollar you give.

Hayley concluded the session by asking us to take out our phones and adding a New Contact for PATH HELP line: 501-301-HELP (4357). She encouraged all of us to be a safe place for each person we meet.

For more information on PATH, visit www.pathsaves.org or call 501 993-1641.

Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.

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. in Hoffius Hall



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



Whether happy or grumpy, giving is still important

Those of you who attend worship regularly at the Kirk will recognize this verse from St Paul: “God loves a cheerful giver” from his Second Letter to the *Corinthians* (9:7). It is one of my favorite verses and I often use it to introduce the offering at the Kirk.

There are several Kirk members (you know who you are!) who almost always leave the sanctuary on Sundays with a tongue-in-cheek question. “What if you’re not so cheerful? Will God accept my gift, even if I’m not so happy about it?”

They’re teasing, of course, but it is still an interesting question.

My stock answer – yes. To the Lord, all gifts are acceptable, even if you’re a grumpy giver. It takes time for some to acquire the spirit of joy – the freedom that comes with giving.

It is interesting. The Greek word Paul uses in II *Corinthians* 9:7 is hilarotes. It’s the same root word from which we get our English word “hilarious!” God loves a hilarious giver! I take this to mean giving is to be done willingly, gladly, joyfully, and perhaps even hilariously!

I understand this kind of giving is not always so easy. The truth is, most of us are “anxious givers.”

We worry so much about having enough, not just now, but enough for the future. We know we should be giving cheerfully, but we worry about the what-ifs of life. None of us want to be a burden on our children or other loved ones. Sometimes we give but are not too happy about it.

Paul in *Romans* 12:8 suggests giving is a gift of the

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



Spirit. It is not simply something we learn at home from our parents, or achieve out of sheer willpower. At its heart, giving is a gift that God works within us.

Having received God’s gift of mercy and grace, we joyfully, gladly, and – yes – even with hilarity, share with others. Giving is about trust – letting go of the need to control everything.

We believe the Lord is a generous giver. God has freely given us all things in Christ. I sometimes imagine God smiling when seeing some of us finally learn to let go a little and give with a generous heart.

Some of you have discovered the joy of giving. The Kirk has some of the most generous people I have ever met – giving joyfully of their time, talent, and treasure. Your recent generosity in responding to your neighbor’s needs during the COVID crisis, through generous giving to the Second Mile fund, is just one recent example.

My wish for all of us is this: never pass up an opportunity to experience the joy of giving.

Kirk Garden recognized

The Kirk in the Pines Memorial Garden was recognized as the non-residential “Yard of the Month” in June by the Garland County Master Gardeners. We are very grateful and appreciate the work of Tom and Priscilla Hayek, past and current Moderators of the Memorial Garden/ Grounds Committee. As Priscilla says, “The garden is where it is today due to all the garden workers throughout the years.” Shown here (from left) are Garland County Master Gardeners Terri Joe Gray, Donna Peebles, and Suzy Still, along with Tom and Priscilla Hayek.
(Bob Still photo)



Hoping for church growth as pandemic eases

I would like to thank Tony Booth for filling in as Clerk of Session last month. I had a health problem that required me to step down for a short time. The problem still exists, but with some help, I can now resume the position as Clerk of Session.

Marilyn and I have been impressed with the outpouring of support and caring from Kirk members. We thank each of you for your cards, telephone calls, and delicious food.

Church Statistics:

As of June 11, 2021:

Members – 280

Family Units – 190

These numbers have stayed the same for the last two months. We all hope that in the next few months as the pandemic restrictions are lifted, church attendance will continue to improve.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to come to the Kirk and become a part of the fellowship and caring of this congregation.

Water-damage repairs:

Barron Gage and the committee working on clean-up and repair of the area damaged by water during the severe freeze last winter, are to be congratulated for the excellent job they have done.

The flooring was replaced in the week of June 21 and the office was closed for part of the time.


When cleaning the air vents, black mold was observed. Three infrared generators have been installed in the ducts to eliminate and prevent further growth.

Memorial Garden:

Pricilla Hayek, Moderator of the Memorial Garden/ Grounds Committee, reported to the Session that the cleanup and replanting in the Memorial Garden has been completed. Earlier, a group of Master Gardeners from Garland County visited and indicated the garden had been selected as the Garden of the Month for June.

**The
Clerk's
Corner**

Jerral Johnson



I would encourage everyone to take a walk through the garden. We should all take pride in our Memorial Garden.

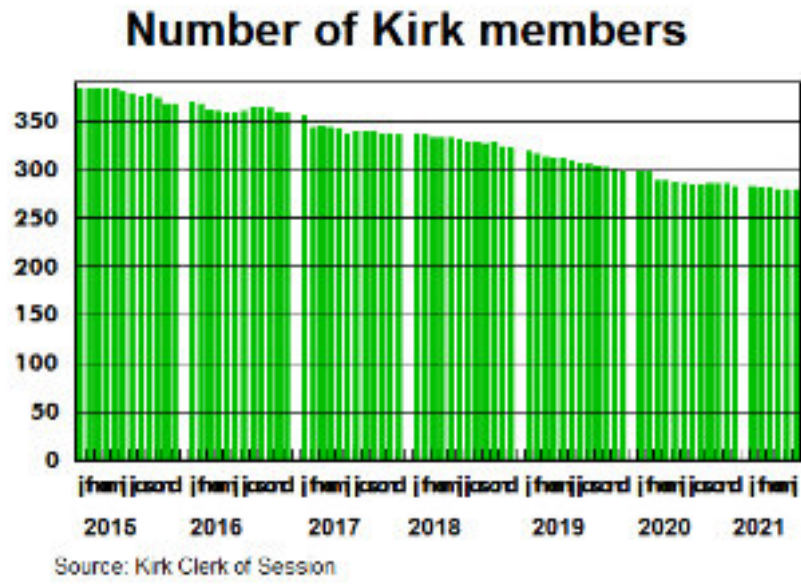
Coffee Hour resumes:

Coffee Hour has resumed in Hoffius Hall after Sunday services. Come down and visit with friends over a cup of good coffee and enjoy the many cookies prepared by Kirk bakers.

On Saturday night, coffee and cookies are served before the service.

One of the problems experienced during the virus outbreak was isolation caused by the restrictions placed on individual close contact with our friends and neighbors. We can now have that close contact again.

The CDC guidance says those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can gather safely without face coverings.



Program on trafficking:

A program detailing the work of Partners Against Trafficking Humans (PATH) was presented June 9. It was organized by the Education Committee led by Pat Kuntz, Moderator.

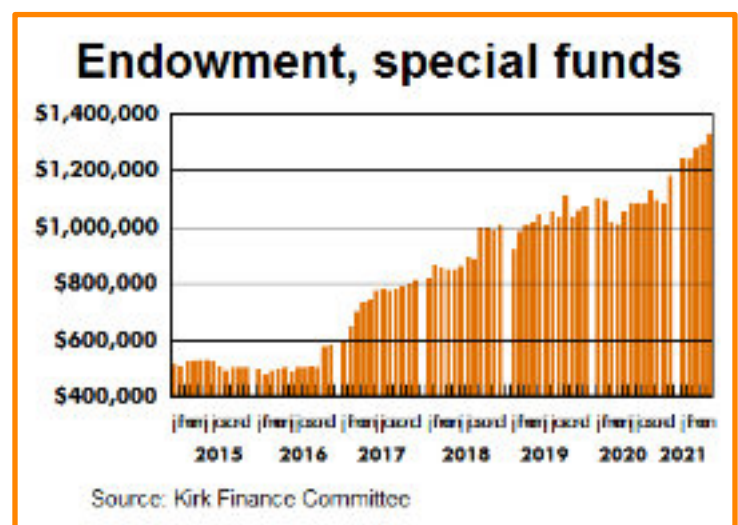
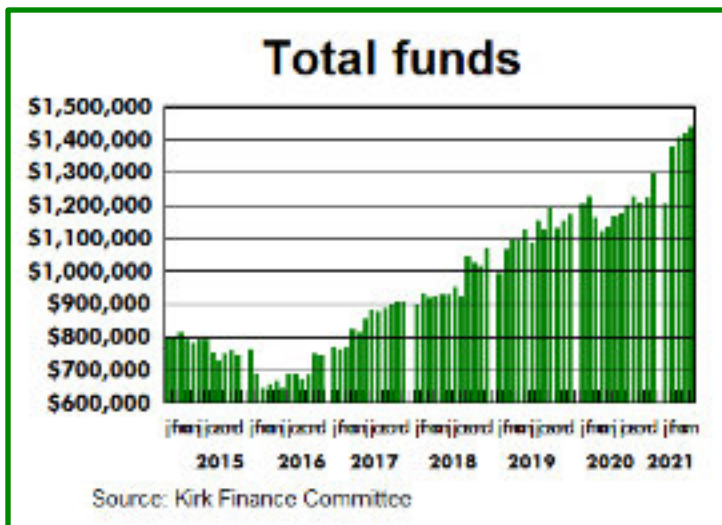
The speaker was Hayley Ross. She outlined the program and how it was developed to help those hurt by human trafficking (an article on this is on page one of this newsletter).

Ross indicated they were looking for a place to conduct training for individuals working in this area. Session members are considering allowing PATH to utilize our facility for training workers.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of May 31, 2021

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,670	\$ 33,356	\$ 183,352	\$ 201,645
Disbursements	\$ 36,670	\$ 24,810	\$ 183,352	\$ 153,311
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,412	\$ 6,016	\$ 22,058	\$ 25,459
Disbursements	\$ 4,412	\$ 36,257	\$ 22,058	\$ 70,930
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 41,082	\$ 39,372	\$ 205,410	\$ 227,104
Disbursements	\$ 41,082	\$ 61,067	\$ 205,410	\$ 224,241
Checking balance				\$ 105,961
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 76,591
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 311,497
Programs fund				\$ 67,403
Endowment fund				\$ 802,100
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 73,352
Total special funds (as of April 30, 2021)				\$ 1,330,943



\$400 for Mission

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

A total of \$400 was collected in May.

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.



Dean Kerr (second from right) with former Mahaska High School students Don Fiser, Cheryl Tuma, Ruth Van Waning and Marjorie Simmons.

Kirk's Dean Kerr attends 75th high-school reunion

By Dotty Rector

Who is able to go to a 75th high-school reunion?

Our own Dean Kerr qualifies and recently did attend his 75th. Dean, who is 92 years old, graduated in 1946 from Mahaska High School in little Mahaska, Kan., which had a peak population of 225.

It was an all-class reunion, including every class from his class of 1946, to 1966, the year the school closed. Dean was his class' salutatorian. Though he was second in his class, Dean said he wasn't in the top 10 percent. Why? Because the 1946 graduates numbered only 10.

He claims to be the oldest grad attending the reunion as well as the oldest class represented. One other 1946 grad was still living but wasn't able to attend.

Since Dean later taught at Mahaska High School, he was pleased to meet with some of his former students. He and Lorna, also a 1946 graduate, have attended nearly every yearly reunion since retirement. Lorna passed away just before the pandemic.

Dean and Lorna were "an item" since ninth grade. He was a farm boy, she a town girl. Lorna used to say, "We were born 13 days and four miles apart." Dean proudly tells how Lorna graduated in the spring of 1946, took

summer school classes, then, that fall, taught all eight grades in the one-room schoolhouse. She was only 17 years old!

Son Kerry with his wife Ruth travels from North Carolina frequently to be with Dean. "We are the support team," says Ruth.

They drove with him to Mahaska, stopping along the route to visit with six of the eight still living Kerr nieces and nephews. Dean cherishes these relationships. Son Kelly from Baton Rouge also attends and enjoys Dean's reunions.

Dean was an educator throughout his life, teaching, and coaching in Mahaska High, Osborne (Kansas) High School, and continued teaching at the university level. He earned an EdD from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

"Education has changed a lot," Dean says. "Life was simpler then," and there was more parental support. When asked if he would return to his 76th class reunion, Dean is doubtful. Daughter-in-law Ruth leaves it open and says, "We'll see."

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

The beat goes on

Two special music concerts planned for the Kirk

By Jan Holtberg

A big THANK YOU is extended to Randy Toney, our Kirk Music Director, Donna Toney, our Pianist / Organist, and the many choir members and guest performers who have provided music for both virtual and live services over the last 15 months. The Kirk's music department has not missed a BEAT.

Once the pandemic restrictions were eased, we were treated to a mixed choir singing at the Pentecost Service. The following week, on Memorial Day Sunday, a men's choir sang Randy Toney's arrangement of *Nearer My God to Thee*, bringing me to tears.

As Randy wrote in the May issue of the *Kirk Voice*, "The choir will suspend for the summer, per usual. Music for Sunday worship will continue to be provided by Donna Toney and a mixture of ensembles, soloists, and an occasional guest musician."

Special musical events are planned for two upcoming Sunday afternoons: one on Aug. 29, billed as an "Afternoon Hymn Sing." The second will be on Sept. 26 – an event featuring Kathy Hendricks, the wonderful clarinet player who has performed in several of our recent worship services. More information on this concert will be in the next edition of the *Kirk Voice*.

The idea for the hymn sing has been percolating since Easter Sunday when Donna and her family spontaneously joined around their piano for an hour and a half of singing old hymns from her childhood.

Donna began to think that, perhaps, the congregation would enjoy a good old hymn sing in the fashion that had just brought her so much joy.

When seriously considering to offer this program, she immediately thought of a very old friend of hers, David Easley, whom she knew through the Louisiana Music



David Easley

Teachers Association (LMTA) to which they both belonged.

Donna and David have played together several times since 2003. She describes him as "the Liberace of Louisiana. He, too, was raised on hymns and can play like no one else, adding all kinds of fabulous things by ear!"

David lives in Walker, La., and is assistant music director at Live Oak



Donna Toney

United Methodist Church outside Baton Rouge. He has a private piano studio where he teaches traditional piano;

however, he is also known for introducing improvisation to his students at a very young age.

David presents improvisation workshops throughout the state of Louisiana, has presented at multiple National Association

Conferences, judges various piano events

throughout Louisiana, and has presented concerts both in several U.S. states and nationally. Currently, he serves as the LMTA Piano Chair.

He completed his undergraduate studies at LSU and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He worked in banking for 15 years and in full-time ministry for 10.

Donna has been the Kirk's Pianist /Organist since 2016. Hymns have been a very important part of her life since she was in fifth grade when she began playing for Sunday night services. Along the way, she has worked with all age groups through choirs, music camps, and festivals.

Donna holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from LSU. Donna served LMTA in many board positions and was honored as the 2013 LMTA Outstanding Music Teacher.

She has been published by Cambiata Press and Pedal Point Magazine.

Please turn to page 7



Kirk golfers and friends are (from left) Shelia Stanley, Bill Stanley, Woodie Barefield, Harry Wakefield, Becky Wakefield, Marty Davis, John Davis, Carol Sue Williams, Carol Clark, Ruth Richards, Ron Lovett, Linda Forry, Doug Forry, and Rosemary Claveau. Not pictured are Jim Hess, Rick Federick, Jamie Federick, Dennis Faulk, and Emily Faulk. (*Jamie Federick photo*)

Kirk golfers return, face the heat after long layoff

By **Jim Hess**

After a pandemic hiatus, the Kirk Sunday Golf Group resumed play on June 13. Eleven golfers hit the links at the Balboa Golf Course. Ten finished nine holes while playing in a heat index of 104 degrees.

Dinner followed at Xplore Lakeside restaurant and was

attended by 18 golfers, spouses, and friends. We were lucky to be able to move from the deck to inside dining to enjoy the air conditioning.

Our next play date is July 11. We will publish the course and restaurant on our July sign-up sheet.

The Kirk Sunday Golf Group has single and couple golfers of all

abilities playing 9 or 18 holes as a group the second Sunday of the month, through October.

If you are a new Kirk member who would enjoy a friendly game of golf and would like more information, call me at 922-2326.

Jim Hess is the Kirk's golf co-ordinator.

Two special concerts planned for the Kirk

Continued from page 6

In Hot Springs Village, she has worked with the Village Chorale and The Cedar Mountain Singers and serves on the boards of the Symphony Guild and Arkansas Learning Through the Arts.

Donna and David have a love of hymns and what they mean to us and our faith. Her strength is in classical music, his is in improvisation. Donna is absolutely delighted to welcome David Easley to share pianos for our program.

As their biographies describe, the Kirk congregation will be treated to a program by two very accomplished musicians.

The Hymn sing will begin at 3 p.m. Aug. 29 in the

sanctuary, led by Donna and David each playing on a grand piano, and each will play a solo. We are to come as we are – in other words, casual. Word sheets will be provided. Requests will be honored.

The hymn sing will be open to the public, so feel free to invite a guest or two. Donations will be accepted to fund a Kirk Mission Committee ministry. A reception will follow in Hoffius Hall.

Join us for an afternoon of great music, singing and camaraderie. This event will be a great time to refresh ourselves with all kinds of fabulous hymns and to lead us into the choir resuming after Labor Day.

Jan Holtberg is a member of the Communication Committee.

Village Churches Mission quietly goes about assisting youngsters throughout the region



Claudia and Ed Kearns play a key role in the Village Churches Mission.

By Bruce Dale

Harry Wakefield has been encouraging me to investigate and document a mission we support called Village Churches Mission (VCM). I must admit I procrastinated, but Harry can be insistent and persuasive.

Little did I realize at the time, but VCM is a marvelous and inspiring cooperative Hot Springs Village effort in the finest Christian tradition. Here's the VCM story for those who may not know it.

Children from needy families in Mountain Pine, Fountain Lake, and Jessieville are identified by counselors at their schools and sent home with a questionnaire asking their parents or guardians to list the number of children in the family, their ages, clothing size, and any basic needs.

Ed and Claudia Kearns of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, pick up the forms, tally the

information and distribute the forms to Village churches, Sunday schools, individuals, and organizations.

They in turn "adopt" the families. Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday baskets are prepared for each family based on the needs identified on the forms.

Certificates are included in each basket enabling each child to buy a new pair of shoes from The Shoe Carnival store in Hot Springs.

According to Sharon Hensley, treasurer of VCM, some organizations also provide Easter Baskets to their adopted families but that's not officially part of VCM's Holiday Basket program.

VCM provides year-round direct support for the hungry by donating to Project Hope Food Bank and earmarking money for the Food Pantries in Mountain Pine, Fountain Lake, and Jessieville.

They also support the children's

food backpack program sponsored by Church of Christ. Here again, they provide money to Project Hope and identify it to be used to support the backpack program.

VCM also provides emergency help in the case of fire, medical, and family emergencies on a one-time basis, as needed.

VCM was created 20 years ago and relies entirely on volunteers. They have a Board of Directors to provide stability and guidance.

Every dollar goes to the needy. There are no expenses for salaries and other expenses. It's efficient, effective, and focuses specifically on the local needs in our neighborhood by leveraging the power of the faith community and others to benefit the needy.

In 2020, thanks to your generosity, the Kirk's mission committee donated \$6,000 to VCM.

Bruce Dale is a member of the Missions Committee.

Finish line in sight as repair work nears end

By Bob Morrow

I'm not a devotee of horse racing, but even I know what it means to pass the quarter pole and enter the final stretch. The finish line is in sight, but there are still opportunities for surprises. That said, we are in the lead by many lengths and expect to cross the finish line with a flourish.

As of this writing, installation of the flooring for the office and choir room should be in progress and be completed by the end of June. Baseboard installation will follow, along with other "touch-ups" so we can enter the winner's circle looking fresh. It is reasonable to expect this race to be over by early July.

Yet, there have been plenty of surprises already. Among the



The choir room floors and risers have been covered with new vinyl wood-style planks. Openings for new registers to improve AC circulation can be seen on the risers. (Bob Morrow photo)

recent stumbles and trip-ups on the track we found the risers in the choir room, once stripped of carpet, require reinforcement to support vinyl plank flooring.

Having the carpet off the risers

also gave us a chance to augment inadequate AC circulation from beneath the risers by installing additional registers in the floorboards.

Cleaning the HVAC system revealed the need for mold remediation which has already been completed.

The racetrack has been a bit muddy as well. Our insurance provider has provided additional funds but we're "still in negotiations" about the additional recovery of our expenses.

Working through this process does not end when we cross the finish line for the project. Our jockey for this race, Barron Gage, has provided exceptional leadership to the team and set a winning pace, much due to his hands-on approach to making things happen.

Special mention also should go to Chip Johnson, our Sexton, who has always been ready and able to take on additional work to see the race through to the end.

When we came out of the starting gate, we didn't know how long and hard this race would be. Now every indication is if you had placed an across-the-board bet on this horse, you would be a winner.

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



Helping Hands' meal was a timely treat for the Whites

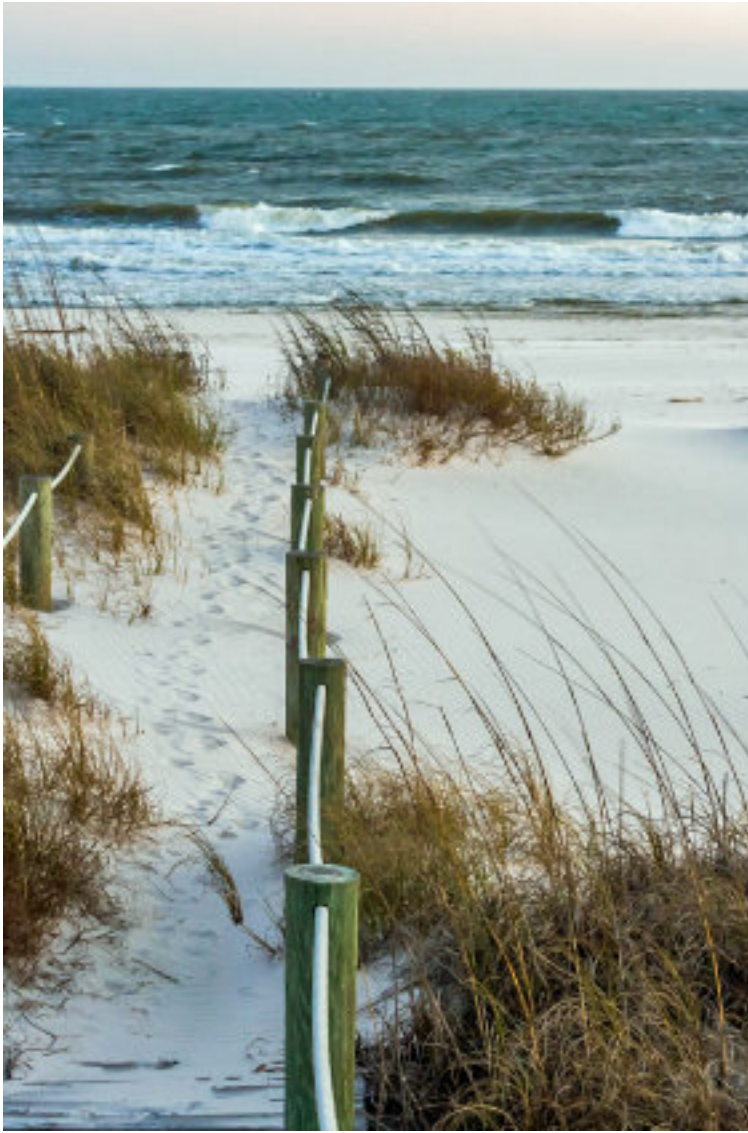
We want to thank the "Helping Hands" group of ladies and the Kirk members who deliver their delicious meals. It was wonderful to receive two delicious meals yesterday (June 8).

We were exhausted when we returned from Little Rock, CARTI after Jim's treatment and having two meals from the Kirk was such a treat!

Ladies we hope you know that your hands do help!

We joined the Kirk in 1995 and it has been one of our best decisions! We love being a part of such a loving and caring church. The Kirk enriches our lives!

Nell & Jim White



Contributed by Susan Morrow, a member of the Communication Committee. Photo by Jamie Federick.

Footprints in the Sand

By Margaret Fishback Powers

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life
flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that at many times along
the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most
troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me.”

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will
never leave you

Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”



How about being on Member Outreach Committee

The Member Outreach Committee has a variety of duties and responsibilities, including sending birthday cards to those who have moved away as well as members who are home-bound.

The committee also updates church records for new members, deceased members, and those who move away or leave the church. The committee is in charge of producing a pictorial directory of the congregation every three to four years.

Although not meeting monthly for a while because of the pandemic, the committee is now meeting again on the third Thursday of the month.

Members of the committee are Carol Clark, Moderator, and Becky Baldwin, Marcia Bauer, Wendy

Gage, Jerral and Marilyn Johnson, Kelle Wolf, Martha Nielsen, Helen Van Stone, and Harry Wakefield.

Additional duties include keeping weekly attendance records for church services, as well as arranging to have greeters to welcome visitors. The committee hosts an annual dinner for new members, as well as receptions for special events at the Kirk. Two such musical events are upcoming in August and September.

Carol Clark would like to hear from you if you are interested in serving on the committee. Please call Carol at 915-8497. She says, “We would love to have you on our committee.”

Contributed by Barbara Worthley, Communication Committee member



Happy dates



Birthdays

July 4	Ted Smith	July 15	Bob Morrow	July 25	Sharon Gardner
July 5	Margaret Boschetti		Patty Van Cleave	July 27	Jay Nielsen
	Lowell Gardner	July 17	Dottie Isaacson	July 28	Bill Drews
July 6	Hannah Bailey	July 18	Helen Van Stone		Dick Massey
July 8	Ralph Greene	July 19	Harry Wakefield	July 29	Carolyn Starr
July 9	James Knox	July 24	Gay Crone	July 30	Nell Moss-White
	Jean Mowry	July 25	Sally Fink		

Anniversaries

July 1	Halene and Ivan (Bud) Strautman	71 years	July 20	Barbara and Tony Booth	58 years
July 6	Anne and Bill Bailey	48 years	July 22	Jean and Clark Mowry	54 years
	Diana and Joe Milligan	37 years	July 27	Cheryl and Daniel Boehmke	37 years
July 18	Ruth and Mark Smith	51 years	July 29	Vicki and David Rosenquist	43 years



Coffee hour returns following Sunday service

The first coffee hour after pandemic restrictions were lifted found everyone in good spirits. In the photo above, Millie Croson, Pat McPheters, Carol Sue Williams, Judy Corwin, Bob Corwin, and Keith Brown are sampling some delicious cookies. In the photo on the right, Jean Fisher, Sally Fink, Marilyn Johnson, Darell Fisher, and Jan Holtberg were among the large turnout for the first coffee hour in over a year. (Jamie Federick photos)



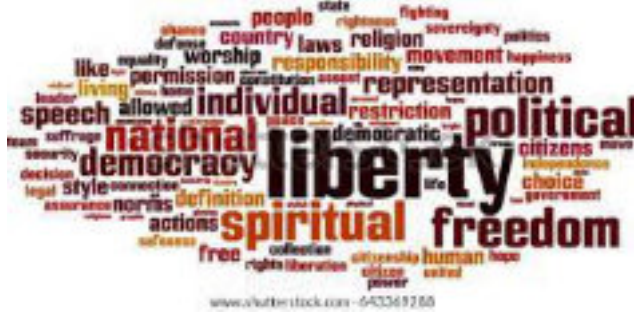
Liberty pointless unless in the company of others

By Lowell Gardner

I recently witnessed a significant call for liberty or freedom. These are cherished words to a democratic republic we declare ourselves to possess. It has however occurred to me that liberty and freedom in isolation may be meaningless or in a social context quite selfish.

Liberty in the Merriam Webster Dictionary is defined as “the quality or state of being free” or “the power to do as one pleases.” It appears to me if one is totally alone this “quality” is redundant or pointless. If not alone, there are undeniable consequences. At least any married couple understands this.

The tenaciously necessary companion word to liberty is *responsibility*. Alone the buck better stop here. Among others we must soon understand liberty is either a two-way street, others headed in the same direction, or clearly agreed-upon boundaries.



The issue was apparent early-on. In *Genesis 4:9*, man asked the creator: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” God’s response addressed life itself.

Jesus, as was his habit, expanded the ideas to the entire family of man, the neighbor. [*Luke 10:25-37*] Jesus recognized for every Israeli the Samaritan was the greatest challenge. Reflect on the current Palestinian/Israeli conflict. A truth in philosophy, religion or politics is a truth.

I WONDER WHY

I wonder why we are as we are when there is devilishly little time to continue to be and far less time to become what we’re meant.

We deplete our energies defeating each other, critiquing what all others should obviously do as they measure what we must assuredly be.

Why can’t we but totally comprehend. We do best in this jointly to reach toward the mark, forward, hand in hand, share breaking the trail.

Lowell Gardner is former Moderator of the Communication Committee.

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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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

