

# A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVI, Issue 12, December 2020

## What to expect this holiday season

As we approach the most important day in our religious calendar, there is much going on in the Kirk family. Here's a roundup of things we believe you need to know:

- To safeguard our members' health, our traditional Christmas Eve service will not take place "in-person" this year.

Instead, we will offer a video of our traditional Lessons and Carols so you can hear the story, sing the old, familiar hymns, and welcome the Christ-child in the comfort of your own home.

- At the urging of state health experts, the Session has adopted new mask guidelines for those attending Saturday and Sunday services. Until the pandemic eases, we are urging members to put their masks on before leaving your car. Leave them on until you return to your car.

It is vital to leave masks on even when singing. Studies show virus particles travel a long way when folks sing without masks. See more details in the Clerk's Corner on page 3.

- A Christmas Giving Tree is once again waiting for you in the narthex. Please stop by and select a gift card to help needy children in our community. More details are on page 10.

- If you want your pledges to the Kirk to count this year, they have to be received by the church office by Dec. 31. Your 2021 donation envelopes can be picked up in the narthex beginning Dec. 6.

- Shepherd groups will remain the same in 2021. See a story on page 7.

- Advent began on Nov. 29. It is a time for reflection on the gift of God in Christ. Here are three online

resources for your advent scripture reading, contemplation, and prayer.

### 1. [Luther Seminary Advent Devotional 2020](#)

This is a series of short daily advent devotionals to use between Nov. 29 and Dec. 25. They are short reflections on scripture and on the Paul Gerhardt hymn text *O Lord How Shall I Meet You*, followed by a prayer.

The reflections probe the nature of the incarnation coming as it does at this season and daily in the life of believers.

### 2. [Daily Readings-Presbyterian Church USA](#)

We featured the D365 daily readings in a previous newsletter. These reflections, posted by the PC(USA), continue through the advent season and encourage us to pause, listen (scripture), think (devotional reflections), pray, and go forward as we encounter Christ's advent in the world.

### 3. [Singing Our Advent Joy](#)

This year's advent devotionals from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary are a truly unique gift.

They provide devotional reflections on scripture and hymns and carols from "hymnals used for worship in Shelton Chapel at Austin Seminary: *Glory to God*, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, *African-American Heritage Hymnal*, and *Santo Santo Santo*."

The texts of these familiar and unfamiliar songs are curated and presented by Eric Wall, assistant professor of sacred music at the seminary. The contributors encourage us to "sing together with great joy, even as we are apart!"

We hope you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas season.

## 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](http://www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar)



## The new year is already here, so let's celebrate

Happy New Year!

This may seem a little early, but it is a reminder our new church year begins this Nov. 29. Unlike our secular calendars, which begin Jan. 1, the liturgical church calendar begins with the season of Advent, which means "coming."

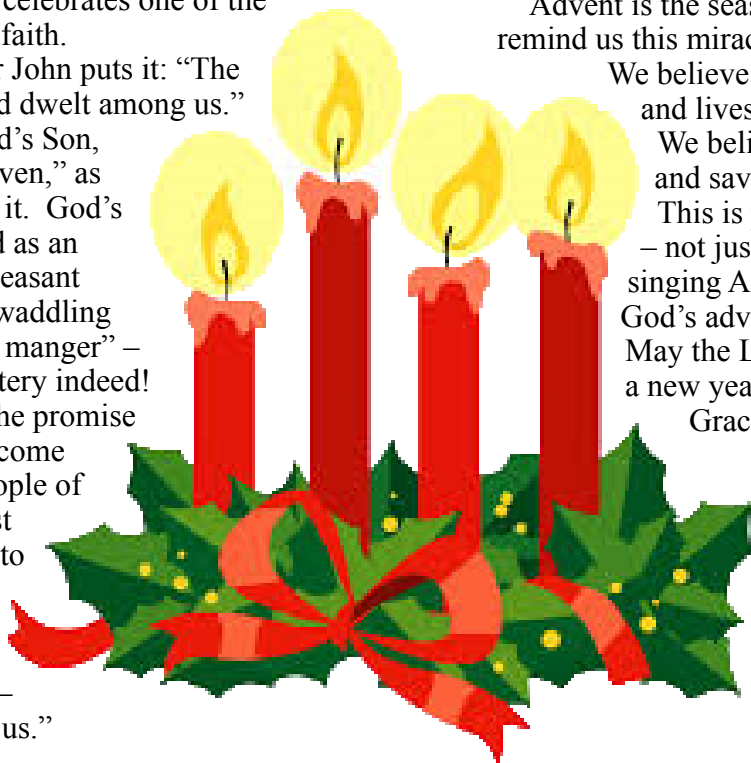
The Church has set aside four weeks for the season of Advent calling us to prepare our hearts for God's coming – both as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth on that first Christmas as well as we look for Christ's coming in our world today.

Christmas certainly celebrates one of the great mysteries of our faith.

As the gospel writer John puts it: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The incarnation of God's Son, "come down from heaven," as the Nicene Creed puts it. God's Son entering the world as an infant born to a poor peasant couple, wrapped in "swaddling clothes" and "laid in a manger" – this is a profound mystery indeed!

But deeper still, is the promise that God continues to come into our world. As people of faith, we believe Christ is alive still and seeks to be born again and dwell within each of our hearts. This is the mystery of Christmas – Emmanuel "God with us."



Advent is the season of the Church set aside to remind us this miracle continues, even today.

We believe God is still coming into our world and lives.

We believe God is still at work redeeming and saving us even now.

This is part of what we celebrate in Advent – not just singing Christmas Carols, but singing Advent hymns that call us to discern God's advent in the present.

May the Lord bless and keep you as we begin a new year.

Grace and Peace,

*Bill*

### The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



## Family of six is enjoying newest Habitat home

By Bob Morrow

You've been asking these last many months of the pandemic about the status of the Apostles Build Habitat for Humanity project. The good news, and we need some good news, is that this year's Apostles Build home was recently completed, dedicated and occupied by a family of six.

The project, which should have been finished in the spring or early summer, ground to a halt for months as a result of the COVID pandemic's impact on construction workers and supplies.

Harry Wakefield, Missions Committee moderator, tracked progress, or rather, lack of progress of the build during the summer. It seemed at times that it might never be finished. But, through the Grace of God, the generosity of the Kirk and ten other local congregations, construction was completed in October, and the house became a home.

The Apostle's Build typically occurs every other year. The next project is planned for 2022. According to Habitat staff, this was the 148th home constructed in

Garland County. For an Apostle's Build, each congregation contributes \$5,000. The Kirk's contribution was provided through Missions Committee funds.

Habitat for Humanity's mission statement is an important reminder of why we participate in the Apostle's Build. "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope."

*Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.*

## Kirk worshipers should wear masks at all times

On Nov. 10, Gov. Asa Hutchinson conducted a briefing on safety measures used in houses of worship to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. He said it is possible to worship safely in-person if state guidelines for places of worship are followed.

The governor stressed the recommendation to use face coverings (masks) continuously throughout the worship service, even when singing.

We had a special Session meeting on Nov. 13 to determine how the Kirk would follow what the governor outlined. The Kirk was already following most of the guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing masks.

Distancing in the sanctuary has been set by placing bulletins six feet apart in every other pew. Couples can move the bulletins close together but still maintain the six-foot distance to the next bulletin. This has not changed from what we have been following since the Kirk reopened.

The Session voted to make one key change in the use of the masks.

In the past the congregation was asked to wear their mask into the Kirk but once in their seat, the mask could be removed. After discussion, it was decided to encourage all members to put their masks before they leave their car and keep them on until they return to their vehicle.

Masks should be kept on even when singing. Unmasked singing is a primary driver of transmission in churches even when spaced six feet apart. Singing produces aerosols that can increase the risk of virus transmission.

## Vera Lloyd staff thanks the Kirk for holiday help

At Vera Lloyd, we work hard throughout the year to heal, equip, and empower vulnerable Arkansas youth who are victims of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and trauma. Our work would not be possible without our incredible partners in ministry like the Kirk in the Pines.

The Kirk and Presbyterian Women have shared Christ's healing love with Vera Lloyd for over 30 years, and we cannot thank you enough!

This Christmas, the church's generous support includes stockings for the Barton home, countless gifts purchased from Santa's Amazon Registry, and more.

Many of the youth we serve have

difficult memories from this time of year. Few have ever experienced the joy and fun traditions of the Christmas season.

Vera Lloyd's house parents and staff focus on introducing the story of Christ's birth, offering traditional family activities, and providing loving stability.

December is a stressful time for many families, and, historically, at least five children will come to live at Vera Lloyd the week preceding Christmas.

Last year, just three days before Christmas, two young siblings showed up on Vera Lloyd's doorstep. Their faces filled with excitement as

### The Clerk's Corner

**Jerral Johnson**



Worship leaders or performers are exempt from wearing their mask while singing but should maintain a 12-foot social distancing.

When entering the Kirk, or when leaving at the end of the service, the six-foot distance between individuals should be maintained. One should maintain proper social distancing when in the narthex and breezeway.

It is our opinion following these precautions, we can maximize safety during worship.

### Entry into The Village Restrictions

The Property Owners' Association is instituting a "proof of authorized entry" requirement for anyone entering the Village.

If you have someone coming in to make a presentation at a club, to visit the Kirk or as a visitor to your home, I suggest you read the Nov. 17 issue of the Village Voice. It has an article discussing how non-POA members can enter the Village. There is also a letter from the POA to the Kirk outlining the policy.

they were asked what they wanted for Christmas. So close to the day, it was hard for them to believe anyone would care.

Because of your support on Christmas morning they received unique gifts picked out just for them. Holidays are not about presents, but for Michael and Michelle, these gifts showed that someone truly loved and cared about them.

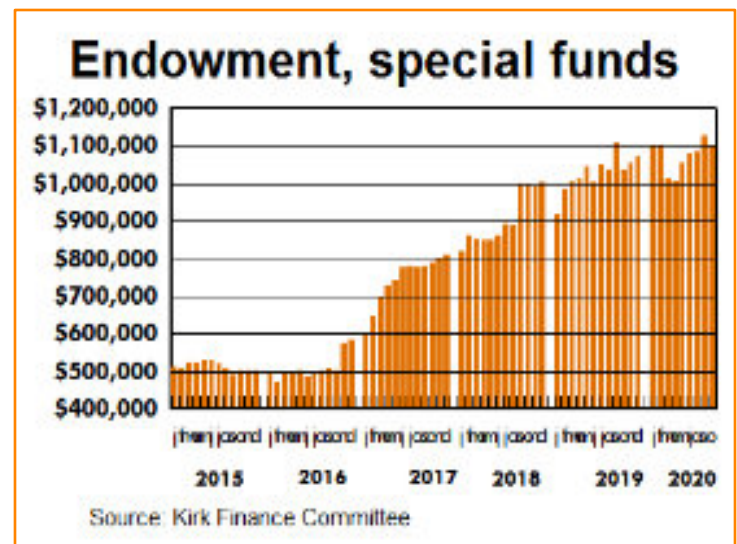
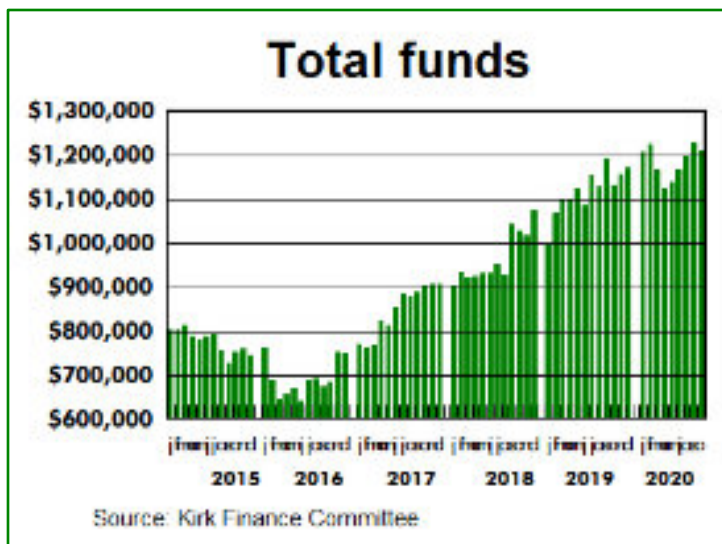
Your support makes stories like Michael and Michelle's possible.

Thank you for your continued support and the stories you will write on children's hearts this Christmas with your generosity.

# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

## Year to date as of October 31, 2020

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 36,370	\$ 34,762	\$ 363,698	\$ 392,203
Disbursements	\$ 37,375	\$ 27,184	\$ 373,767	\$ 349,760
<b>Building Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,218	\$ 2,709	\$ 42,182	\$ 39,803
Disbursements	\$ 4,660	\$ 2,361	\$ 46,600	\$ 39,930
<b>Total all funds:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 40,588	\$ 37,471	\$ 405,880	\$ 432,006
Disbursements	\$ 42,035	\$ 29,545	\$ 420,367	\$ 389,690
Checking balance				\$ 114,255
<b>Special funds:</b>				
Memorial fund				\$ 63,807
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 256,516
Programs fund				\$ 56,152
Endowment fund				\$ 658,960
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 61,108
<b>Total special funds (as of Sept. 30, 2020)</b>				<b>\$ 1,096,543</b>



## \$239 for Mission

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

A total of \$239 was collected in October.

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.

## 2020 pledges due now

Contributions for your 2020 pledge must be received by Dec. 31 to be credited on your 2020 contribution statement. This is done so we can process the year-end financial and contribution report and close out the year.

Any money received after Dec. 31 will be reflected on your 2021 statement.

2021 contribution envelopes can be picked up in the church narthex after Dec. 6.

# Paul Hayek played key role in U.S. Space program

By Bill and Barbara Worthley

Hot Springs Village Life magazine recently featured Kirk member Paul Hayek in an article about his career in the aeronautics industry.

Village Life is a quarterly publication produced by the Hot Springs Village Voice and is included with a subscription to the Voice. The article was written by Suzanne Sweeten, a correspondent for the Voice. Here are some highlights from the article:

Before he became a Villager, Paul Hayek helped make history. His career began with the Gemini program and ended with the space shuttle. In Paul's words, "I was a propulsion-system test engineer."

After college and serving in the military, Paul went to work for McDonnell Aircraft, which later became McDonnell Douglas.

"I got the chance to go on the Gemini Program." Gemini was a precursor to the Apollo missions. Gemini trained NASA and its astronauts for space travel. Without Gemini's practical experience, a man couldn't land on the moon.

Hayek's next assignment was the Space Station. When it was canceled, he was transferred to NASA's SKYLAB program. Next, he worked on the F-4 Phantom II. "I helped develop a new missile called a Boost-Glide

Reentry Vehicle."

Next, "I moved to the Harpoon Missile program, an anti-ship missile launched either by air or by ship."

Hayek began working on the Space



Paul Hayek was on teams which developed the Gemini (right) and Space Shuttle (above) programs.



Kirk member Paul Hayek and his wife, Joyce.

Shuttle program in 1975. His team focused on the solid rocket boosters and the orbiter. After the Challenger incident, the team researched their documentation to see if they had anything to do with it. It was later determined it was not their error.

In summary, Hayek's teams helped mold space travel.

"The programs were all about change. The Mercury Capsule was to see if they could do it. With Gemini, we had to evolve to docking in space. The Apollo program used Gemini's information to do the lunar landing."

Paul retired in 1994 and moved to the Village in 1998. Paul and his wife, Joyce, have been active members of the Kirk ever since.

*Barbara Worthley is on the Communication Committee.*



# Project Hope Food Bank's needs have doubled

By Bruce Dale

Becky Chote smiled and greeted us warmly.

"You just missed some others who were here from your church – Harry and Becky Wakefield. So, come on in!" Becky said. She has an infectious smile, even with a mask on, and we felt immediately at home.

The Project Hope Food Bank (PHFB) in Hot Springs was a bustling place, with trucks delivering food products and forklifts buzzing and shuffling the incoming and outgoing pallets of food in a crowded warehouse.

The workers, just a few volunteers, were lifting and rearranging shelves and pallets, all with a purpose and a plan directed by Ted Thompson, the founder and executive director of PHFB, and Becky, its community awareness coordinator.

The pandemic's impact has been real and significant for PHFB.

Between 2019 and the projected end of this year, they expect to double their food output to the community. That includes backpacks to 13 school districts, distributions to 45 local food pantries, emergency food boxes to hospitals and social agencies, and feeding programs like Jackson House and the Salvation Army.

Hunger is real and seemingly omnipresent.

"I get about 20 phone calls a day from families looking for food," said Becky.

Of course, to double their output, they must double their input. That means more donations like those from the Kirk and other churches and more grants from foundations such as Walmart and Oaklawn.

It also means Becky and Ted must sharpen their pencils to get the best deals on the wholesale food market.



Executive director Ted Thompson and community awareness coordinator Becky Chote of Project Hope Food Bank. (Bruce Dale photos)



## A look at our Missions

"We convert 96 percent of every dollar we get into food purchases. We're in donated facilities, and we're all volunteers, so our overhead is minimal," said Becky.

She creates and runs spreadsheets using an algorithm comparing the impact of cost and nutritional value on their food purchases to ensure they are getting the best food value for their clients.

And, just like their much larger cousin, the Arkansas Food Bank, they pride themselves on their

ability to get the lowest prices and the biggest bang for their funds.

Becky's journey to PHFB may seem haphazard. She lost her job in the construction industry during the severe economic downturn in 2007-08. Trying to find work, she stumbled across the PHFB Ted Thompson was starting. She volunteered to help.

"He asked if I'd ever written a grant or created a website," she laughed. "I said no, but he gave me the job anyway, and I had to hit the ground running. I wrote my first

*Please turn to page 7*

## Shepherd Groups to remain unchanged in 2021

Normally it would be time to change Shepherd Groups for the coming two years, but not much has been normal for the last nine months due to Covid-19. Most groups have not been meeting during this time.

We are praying that 2021 will bring solutions to the virus, and there will be more opportunities to gather and enjoy each other's company and fellowship once again.

Our Shepherd Group leaders have decided to keep our same six groups for another year. If anyone wishes to change or visit another group, feel



free to do so. Before you do, it would probably be a good idea to check with the Shepherd leader to see what activities they might be planning.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. Here are the six Shepherd Groups and their leaders:

Group 1 – Games – Barbara and Bill Worthley, 204-4395.

Group 2 – Lunch – Judy and Bob Corwin, 922-6750.

Group 3 – Dinner – Rita and Tom Martick, 922-6209.

Group 4 – Breakfast – Nancy Patton, 1-708-508-9754.

Group 5 – Dinner – Helen Van Stone, 501-226-9238, Ruth Richards, Ron Lovett, 922-5421.

Group 6 – Traditional – Keith Brown, 922-1119.

If you have any questions, call Vicki Rosenquist at 1-706-371-2877.

## Second Mile funds help Project Hope food project

*Continued from page 6*

grant and came up with a simple website in my first 30 days.”

That was in 2008, and she's been there ever since. She loves her work and the fulfillment she gets from the results. “I wake up happy every morning and can't wait to get to work because of what we bring to the community and people in need.”

In listening to Becky, I couldn't help think of a benediction I heard once: “You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there. Christ who indwells you has something He wants to do through you where you are. Now go in his peace, love, and power.”

The Kirk's Second Mile campaign is not over. Winter will likely bring an even more severe infection rate than we have experienced to-date. More jobs will be lost and more families will be going hungry.

Our community needs our support more than ever, and your



Project Hope volunteers load a van with a delivery to a local food pantry.

financial contribution will be doubled until the end of this year. Please prayerfully consider what more you can do to help.

***Bruce Dale is a member of the Kirk's Missions Committee.***



We hope you have the most wonderful Christmas, and thank you for letting us work with you in this trying year.



William B. Bailey, Senior Pastor  
Randy Toney, Director of Music  
Donna Toney, Organist/Pianist  
Janie Smith, Visitation Coordinator  
Beverly Schaumburg, Business Administrator  
Chris Taylor-Wilmoth, Secretary  
Arthur "Chip" Johnson, Sexton



# Instead of flowers, help our Christmas Joy effort

Dear Members,

To safeguard the health of our members, we will not be meeting for Christmas Eve services. Many of you were planning on ordering flowers to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas service and honor the memory of loved ones.

In lieu of flowers, you can donate the price of the flowers to the Presbyterian Joy offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is apportioned so 50 percent goes to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The other 50 percent provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

If you would like to donate, please fill out the flower order form as if you were ordering flowers. Make out your check to Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, submitted



along with the form to the Kirk office. The deadline for making the offering will be Dec 10. The Kirk will print a bulletin listing the donors and the honorees.

Thank you,

**Nancy Patton,**  
*Worship Moderator*

**Contributions will be sent to The Presbyterian Joy offering.**

**Name of Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#\_\_\_\_\_Poinsettia(s) @\$8.00**                      **total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

# PW has two special Christmas gifts for the Kirk

**By Dotty Rector**

'Tis the season for gift-giving and Presbyterian Women of the Kirk are giving two gifts to brighten our holidays.

On Dec. 7, PW's coordinating team will set up and light a Christmas tree in Hoffius Hall. It will be especially appreciated by the Informal, Saturday evening service worshipers. PW Moderator Vicki Rosenquist said, "We need all the brightness we can have during this pandemic season."

Secondly, an open invitation is extended to all Kirk members and friends (men and women) to a special program at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, in the Kirk sanctuary. The Rev. Carol Clark of Little Rock will be a guest speaker for the December PW Gathering.

PW is so pleased to secure Carol for this event. She has preached a time or two in the Kirk during Pastor Bill Bailey's absence. She might be remembered as the dynamic preacher who, without notes, roamed about the chancel.



Interestingly, Rev. Clark is the sister-in-law of Cora Jane Pope, wife of our former pastor Sam Pope. As head of staff for 15 years of Unity Presbyterian Church near Charlotte, the church was consistently ranked as one of the top 10 percent fastest-growing churches in the PC (USA).

The same safety considerations as those of Sunday worship will be maintained, i.e., masks and distancing. Due to health considerations, there will be no luncheon afterward. Musical selections, planned by our own Randy and Donna Toney, will be featured.

Space is limited, so reservations must be made by calling the church office at 922-1333.

PW would love to see a "full house" and asks that you mark your calendars for this special event and call the office to reserve a seat.

***Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.***



## **Christmas Giving Tree returns to help children enjoy the holidays**

**By Becky Wakefield**

Approximately 25 years ago, the Kirk Mission Committee began the Christmas Giving Tree. Since then, Kirk members have helped put smiles on the faces of hundreds of boys and girls in our community.

The Christmas Giving Tree will be loaded with tags again this season for children from Mountain Pine Headstart and Ouachita Children's Center. The Vera Lloyd Children's Home created an Amazon Registry, that we used this year.

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 29, tags may be pulled off the Christmas tree in the Narthex.

Gifts for Mountain Pine children should be returned wrapped or in gift bags with the tag attached to the outside of the package. There may also be gift cards for the Mountain Pine children's families.

Ouachita Children's Center asks for gift cards only again this season which can be used by youth or staff to purchase gifts. Baskets will be placed in the Narthex for placement of the gift cards. The tag and gift card should be taped together to ensure that it goes to Mountain Pine or Ouachita.

Look for the festive tree in the Narthex beginning Nov. 29. The deadline for returning gifts will be Dec. 13. Elves from the Mission Committee will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

Tags on the tree list specific information to assist in shopping for the perfect gift. Questions? Please call me at 214 455-2921. Thank you for sharing your love with families in our community in need.

***Becky Wakefield is a member of the Mission Committee.***



# Happy dates



## Birthdays

Dec. 1	Ruth Hamilton Gary Rector	Dec. 10	Carol Case	Dec. 18	Marylyn Rabideau Mary Wright
Dec. 2	Martha Copeland	Dec. 11	Christine Hoagland	Dec. 22	Peggy Sowers
Dec. 3	Cheryl Boehmke	Dec. 12	Pat Mershon	Dec. 28	Robert Sonnen Becky Wakefield
Dec. 7	Daryl Henry Kathy Martin	Dec. 13	Pat Mull	Dec. 29	Susan Morrow
Dec. 8	Wendy Gage	Dec. 14	Jack Bullard	Dec. 30	Ellen Marshall
Dec. 9	Carolyn Kane	Dec. 15	Pat Rea Della Reimers		
		Dec. 18	Arnie Holtberg		

## Anniversaries

Dec. 1	Sissy and David Wilson	36 years	Dec. 23	Lorraine and Bob Berry	43 years
Dec. 5	Gail and David Salmen	50 years		Susan and Bob Morrow	45 years
Dec. 17	Debbie and Jim Cordell	37 years	Dec. 28	Eddie and Don Loveday	52 years
Dec. 19	Jan and Arnie Holtberg	50 years	Dec. 29	Becky and Harry Wakefield	48 years
Dec. 21	Barbara and Dan Chambliss	3 years	Dec. 31	Barbara and Jerry McAnarney	9 years

## **Kirk golfers wish all a happy holiday and look forward to things getting back to normal in 2021**

### By Jim Hess

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the holidays bring happiness to all. We welcome 2021 with prayers our normal will return.

Our Kirk Sunday Golf Group has been in existence for 12 or 14 years, starting as a Shepherd Group, evolving into our current group. We have enjoyed our time together on our various courses and the many dinners that we have shared.

We will continue to monitor present conditions and resume golf and dinner when it is safe to gather as a large group. Stay healthy. We miss everyone, and blessings to all.

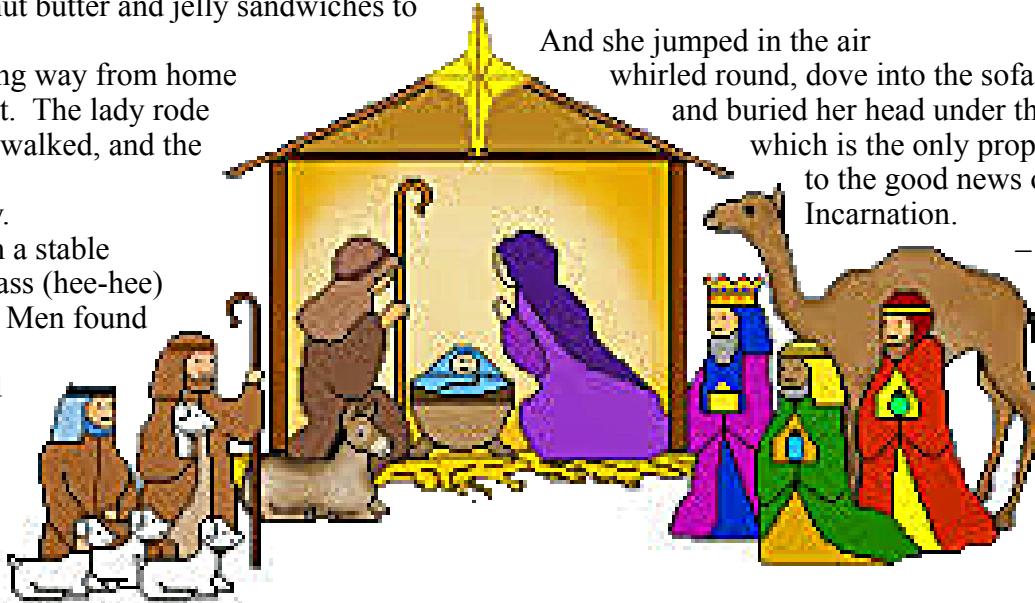
If you are new to our Kirk or are a current member and would like to join our Kirk Sunday Golf Group, we welcome you. We are couples and single golfers of various abilities who play 9 or 18 holes, your choice. We play our Village courses with dinner to follow after golf the second Sunday of each month, April through October. If you would like additional information, call me at 922-2326.

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



# A 5-year-old's dream of the holiest of days

She was five,  
sure of the facts,  
and recited them  
with slow solemnity  
convinced every word  
was revelation.  
She said they were so poor  
they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to  
eat  
and they went a long way from home  
without getting lost. The lady rode  
a donkey, the man walked, and the  
baby  
was inside the lady.  
They had to stay in a stable  
with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)  
but the Three Rich Men found  
them  
because a star lited  
the roof.



Shepherds came and you could  
pet the sheep but not feed them.  
Then the baby was borned.  
And do you know who he was?  
Her quarter eyes inflated  
to silver dollars.  
The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air  
whirled round, dove into the sofa  
and buried her head under the cushion  
which is the only proper response  
to the good news of the  
Incarnation.

– John Shea, from  
*The Hour of the  
Unexpected*

## 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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