

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVII, Issue 1, January 2021

Second Mile Campaign had great support in 2020, generating massive impact on those in need

By Bruce Dale

When we summarize Second Mile Campaign results for 2020, there are two significant headlines:

Extraordinary congregational response and Massive community Impact.

First, the numbers speak for themselves. The Second Mile campaign raised almost \$50,000 in less than nine months. Combined with the Mission budget of \$51,000, the Kirk will have distributed more than \$100,000 in total mission giving last year.

The Second Mile Campaign was explicitly aimed at local missions we know and trust from many years of experience – Jackson House, Cooperative Christian Ministry and Clinic, Potter’s Clay, Arkansas Food Bank, and Project Hope Food Bank.

These caregivers provide necessities and care for their hungry, homeless, battered, abused, and sick clients. In every case, the coronavirus pandemic was straining resources to the limit and beyond.

For example, Second Mile enabled food banks to buy meat wholesale for about 20 cents a pound. The overhead of the Project Hope Food Bank is between 2 and 3 percent of revenue, so \$10,000 allowed them to buy almost 50,000 pounds of meat for distribution to their clients.

For me, the memory of meeting and interviewing each of the mission leaders was an unforgettable experience. They are true “Angels of Mercy,” passionately dedicated to delivering essential Christian

virtues: Care for the sick, food for the hungry, housing for the homeless, love for the unloved.

Their examples humbled me.

The Second Mile campaign, so aptly named by Pastor Bill Bailey, is not over. We are heading into what will be the worst phase of the pandemic this winter and early spring.

We are entering the Second Mile, when fatigue, lethargy, and our sense of isolation might keep us from continuing the journey. A vaccine is not far off, but until it’s here, our community will suffer even more than they have to date.

Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to donate to this critical cause for 2021.

Bruce Dale is a member of the Missions 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. Hoffius Hall



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



It's harder to do something, easy to slough it off

I ran across a quote of the late British spy novelist John le Carre last week. That was the pen name of David Cornwell, who died this past Dec 12. Many of you may have read some of his 12 spy novels or seen the many movie versions.

The quote that caught my imagination was this: "If there is one eternal truth of politics, it is that there are always a dozen good reasons for doing nothing."

If you take out the word "politics" and replace it with "life," I think you may have an eternal truth. And especially when we think about "the life of faith," there are always a dozen good reasons for doing nothing.

It only takes one good reason not to get involved more deeply in a church. It only takes one reason not to give generously to help others. We may think of a dozen reasons not to support some mission, but it only takes one to convince ourselves not to do it.

Perhaps this New Year 2021 is a time to make a fresh start – to let go of past mistakes and try to make positive changes in our lives.

Some of us create lists of New Year's resolutions. Others simply use the occasion to focus on one area of growth – perhaps to begin an exercise program, or read more, watch less TV, eat less, or whatever.

Excited about the prospects of a new year, many of us feel the need to try and improve our lives.

Of course, many of us know what happens to "good intentions." A few years back, I read that almost 80 percent of New Year's resolutions are broken within the first week, and of those who break their resolutions, only 40 percent try again to keep them.

Because breaking old habits can be very difficult and frustrating, sometimes we become too discouraged to try again.

As people of faith, we believe life is more than

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



simply self-improvement. We believe God is also at work transforming and shaping our lives. We believe if God has his way with us, we are continually being made into Christ's likeness.

St. Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." (II Cor. 5:17)

With God, there is always the possibility of a new beginning. More than self-help, there is God's promise of forgiveness and renewal. There is the renewing presence of the Spirit, so that each day provides the possibility of a new beginning.

As we look to this New Year 2021, let us continue to trust in the transforming mercy and grace of our God. This God, who has been faithful in the past, will give us hope as we face a new year.

Come what may, God is with us, calling us to remember a number of reasons to continue working for God's Kingdom.

* * *

The most recent data from our office secretary is that we are a little over \$54,000 short in pledges this year.

Last year, in 2020, the Kirk received 120 pledges totaling \$344,835. For this coming year, 2021, we have thus far received 105 pledges totaling \$290,615.

We know several people have died and several families have moved. Still, I am told there are several families that made pledges in 2020 who are still members of the Kirk and have not pledged thus far this year.

If you have not returned a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. As always, estimating your giving is a great help for the Elders of the Kirk who are tasked with mission planning and giving. You may contact Bev Schaumburg at the Kirk office to discuss this. Her phone number is 922-1333.

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity and your faithful giving. May god bless you and keep you and grant you peace this Christmas season.



Hayek, Bauer and Morrow installed on Session

Installation, ordination of new Session members

Dec. 13 marked the end of the 2020 Nomination Committee responsibilities. They were responsible for selecting candidates to fill Session positions being vacated at the end of the year.

Three individuals – Priscilla Hayek, Marcia Bauer, and Bob Morrow – were selected to serve on the Session for the next three years beginning Jan. 1, 2021. They also will serve as committee moderators.

The candidates were presented Dec. 6 to the congregation in a called meeting and were approved.

On Dec. 13, during the Sunday Service, they were installed and ordained. They will begin looking for individuals to fill their respective committees. If asked to serve, I hope you will give the request careful consideration.

When you see the new Session members, please



The Clerk's Corner Jerral Johnson



express your appreciation for their agreeing to serve the Kirk in this leadership role.

The outgoing Session members are Tom Hayek and Sally Fink. Bob Morrow has been serving the remainder of Lowell Gardner's term when Lowell stepped down earlier due to health problems. Bob will now be filling a full term on the Session.

In addition to presenting the candidates to the Congregation on Dec. 6, five members were introduced to serve on the 2021 Nomination Committee.

This committee is responsible for selecting Kirk members to serve as members of the Session. Members are Carol Sue Williams, Vicki Rosenquist, Bill Reynolds, Carol Clark, and Jerral Johnson. They were approved by the congregation.

They will begin to meet on a regular basis in June to search for outstanding Kirk members to replace Session members that will complete their three-year term on Dec. 31, 2021.

Church Statistics as of Dec. 11, 2020:

Members – 285

Households – 196

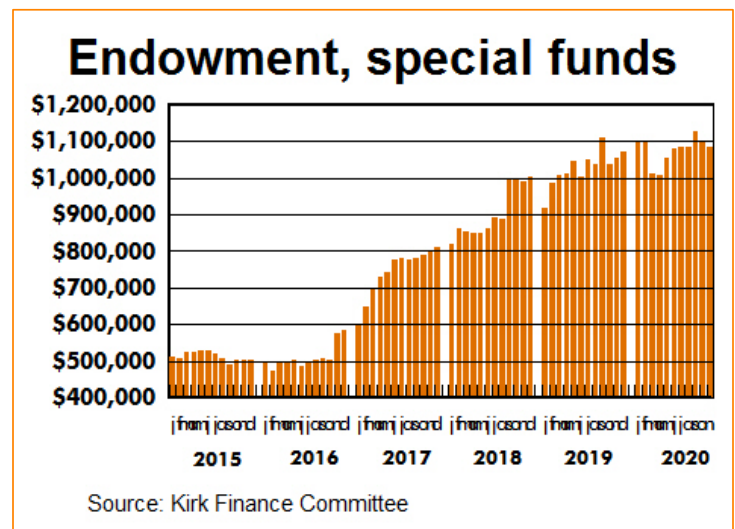
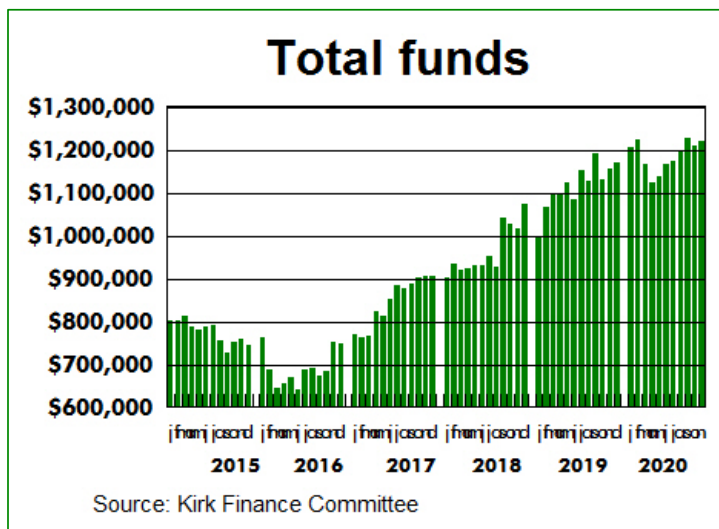
A Giving Tree of generosity

The 2020 Giving Tree was a great success due to the generosity and love of many Kirk members. 17 children from Mountain Pine Head Start each received two gifts – a toy and clothing. We also gave each child's family a \$50 gift card to a local grocery and a bag of toiletries. Ouachita Children's Center received 14 \$25 gift cards to a local store and 30 tote bags. We are so grateful for the enthusiastic participation of so many of you in service to our Lord and our community. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of November 30, 2020

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,370	\$ 29,321	\$ 400,068	\$ 421,524
Disbursements	\$ 37,375	\$ 30,308	\$ 411,143	\$ 380,068
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,218	\$ 2,778	\$ 46,400	\$ 42,581
Disbursements	\$ 4,660	\$ 1,849	\$ 51,260	\$ 41,779
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 40,588	\$ 32,099	\$ 446,468	\$ 464,105
Disbursements	\$ 42,035	\$ 32,157	\$ 462,403	\$ 421,847
Checking balance				\$ 125,430
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 63,156
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 253,900
Programs fund				\$ 55,580
Endowment fund				\$ 652,563
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 60,485
Total special funds (as of Oct. 31, 2020)				\$ 1,085,684



\$223 for Mission

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

A total of \$223 was collected in November.

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.

Make sure your email address is correct

Important notices from the Kirk are sent by email. Check your email address in the membership directory so you don't miss a thing.

Current directories are available outside the Kirk office and in the narthex.



A tapestry reflecting the traditional interpretation of the story of the visit by the Magi by Edward Burne Jones.

Now some little-known facts about the Epiphany

By Bob Morrow

Most of us know the season of Epiphany follows Christmas, but the exact calendar dates depend on the particular strain of Christianity in question.

For our Protestant Presbyterian purposes, let Epiphany be the season beginning after the 12 days of Christmas, celebrating the visit of the Magi to the young Christ. This visit, so richly adorned with music, art, and yuletide tradition is recorded only in the Gospel of Matthew (*Matthew 2:1-12*). As with everything in the Bible, and in the Gospels, in particular, nothing is included incidentally, e.g., without a discrete purpose.

Nevertheless, the purpose of including the Magi story is obscure. Perhaps it was to emphasize that the infant Jesus would be the universal Christ, not just for the Hebrew people, but for all, meaning all of the world, including Gentiles.

The Magi, being wise men from the east, would represent the rest of the world who also were told of the coming of the King of the Jews, just as the Jewish prophets had foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Or it could be the story was told to emphasize Herod's treachery, his attempt to use the Magi to find Jesus and kill him.

Or maybe we are meant to be impressed by the gifts the Magi brought to the nascent King of the Jews. They were, literally, a king's ransom. The gifts, therefore, would be a concrete royal tribute in recognition of Jesus' true kingship.

It is worth noting the story mentions no such tribute being paid to Herod, therefore implying the illegitimacy of his royal station.

We also don't know what became of the gifts. They would have made Joseph and Mary very wealthy.

We can set a few things straight.

First, the notion there were three Magi, and they were kings, is not biblical. Nor, sorry to say, is the image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus in the manger.

In fact, according to Matthew, the Magi visit Jesus "at home," suggesting the possibility that Jesus was an older infant or toddler at the time.

Finally, you will be disappointed to know you will not find any reference to camels in the biblical account.

But the Magi were led by a heavenly light to Jesus, and they presented gifts of immense value to the young child in a worshipful and sacrificial act.

Some say our Western tradition of gift-giving to those we love at Christmas is inspired by the story of the Magi. O'Henry (William Sydney Porter) gave the nod to this notion when he penned his short story *The Gift of the Magi* in 1905.

The story tells of a young couple struggling with poverty and their last-minute efforts to give a gift to their beloved on the eve of Christmas. I won't spoil the story for you but suffice it to say each makes the ultimate sacrifice for the other to give a gift worthy of their love.

Read the story if you want to experience an epiphany (lower case "e") about gift-giving. You can find *The Gift of the Magi* at kirkinthepines.org under the newsletter tab.

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.

Marcia Bauer elected to head Congregational Care

By Susan Morrow

The Kirk in the Pines congregation elected Marcia Bauer as an Elder serving a three-year term as Moderator of Congregational Care Committee in the Class of 2023.

Marcia grew up on a family farm in Stuttgart, Ark., as one of six siblings. Early in her childhood, her family moved to Hot Springs. She lived in the Hot Springs area until she completed nursing school in 1984.

Marcia's nursing career spanned 30 years as she worked in orthopedics, out-patient surgery, utilization review, and home health care.

When her mother needed assistance as she dealt with Alzheimer's, Marcia moved back to the Hot Springs area to be closer to her mom and provide needed care.

After retiring from nursing in 2014 and as a Kirk member, she continued her professional care-giving expertise on the Congregational Care Committee. She has also served on the Fellowship and Membership committees at the Kirk.

Marcia enjoys being part of the Greenhorns cooking crew and faithfully cares for her sourdough bread starter passed along by Kirk member Judy Rosenthal.

The thread of care woven through Marcia's professional career and now retirement will continue as Moderator of the Congregational Care Committee.

Marcia emphasizes that "If I can do anything to help someone, then I am willing to do that."

Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.



Marcia Bauer is a new member of the Session and Moderator of the Congregational Care Committee. (Bob Morrow photo)



Heartprints

Christ has no body now but yours.
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
 Yours are the eyes through which he
 looks compassion on this world.
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to
 do good.
 Yours are the hands through which he
 blesses all the world.
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
 yours are the eyes, you are his body.
 Christ has no body now on earth but
 yours.

– Teresa of Avila



Lifelike statue of St. Teresa in the courtyard of the Iglesia of St. Teresa de Avila in Spain.

Priscilla's election keeps it 'all in the family'

By Jan Holtberg

Priscilla Hayek has been elected to serve a three-year term as a Session Elder and Moderator of the Grounds and Memorial Committee. She follows a six-year term her husband, Tom, just completed. She and her family have vast experience working on the Kirk grounds.

Her late father, Philip Johnson, became a resident of Hot Springs Village in 1981 and a member of the Kirk when services were in the Coronado Center. After the Kirk was built, he became the first Elder of Building and Grounds.

Tom and Priscilla followed her parents to the Village in 2011 and joined the Kirk. Priscilla served on the Congregational Committee for two years.

In 2013, she accepted the position of Elder of the Memorial Garden. Tom was serving as Elder of Building and Grounds. At a session meeting near the end of their terms of service, Priscilla proposed Tom's position be split in two as the Church building was requiring more care and seemed too demanding for one person.

So, in 2016 the Building and Grounds Committee was divided. The Grounds Committee and Memorial Garden Committee merged. Tom stayed on as Elder of Grounds. Priscilla has served as a committee member for the last three years.



Priscilla Hayek has been elected to Session and as Moderator of the Memorial Garden and Grounds Committee. *(Jan Holtberg photo)*

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!



Now Priscilla and Tom are switching places. Tom plans to serve as a committee member while Priscilla takes the reigns as Elder of the Memorial Garden/Grounds Committee. They have kept it "All in the Family." They are indeed a partnership.

Priscilla's gardening expertise comes from the ground-up. She and Tom cultivated two acres of land outside Chicago for 25 years before moving to the Village. They purchased the property with one tree and left it with 200 trees and various flower gardens.

Her hands-on experience comes from "a love of gardening. It is not a job," she said. "It is the sweet feeling of communing with nature and the joy she feels accomplishing a work of natural art."

Jan Holtberg is a member of the Communication Committee.



16 Kirk members enjoyed Thanksgiving in a different way this year

Fellowship committee members (from left to right) Jean Fisher, Ron Lovett, Ruth Richards, and Marcia Bauer assembled meals and delivered them to Kirk members. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

By Dotty Rector

Fellowship Committee chairperson Ruth Richards says: “It’s no fun to be alone on a holiday.”

With that in mind, she, Ron Lovett, Marcia Bauer, and Jean Fisher brought some holiday spirit to 16 Kirk members who would be alone or “shut-in” on Thanksgiving.

They formed an assembly line in the Kirk kitchen to pack the dinners,

which had been purchased from Home Plate. The generous dinners included turkey, gravy, stuffing, vegetable casseroles, rolls, and cranberry sauce. It was topped off with a slice of pie.

All sixteen recipients were “so grateful.” Some wanted to hug the deliverers but, of course, they couldn’t. The pandemic in which we find ourselves has altered many customs and activities.

One tradition is the traditional gathering of Kirk members for a group Thanksgiving dinner in Hoffius Hall. 2020 was a “different Thanksgiving,” says Ruth.

The Kirk community can thank the Fellowship Committee for this thoughtful gesture. We hope that next year we can all celebrate together again.

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.

PW Circles bring joy to four local families

By Vicki Rosenquist

Once again, this Yuletide season, the Kirk's four PW circles made Christmas a little brighter for families from the Jessieville School District.

It has been a tradition for PW Circles to sponsor families in the area by providing clothing and toys for the children and groceries for the whole family.

After shopping for clothes, toys, and food, Circle members gather together to wrap the gifts and pack the food items. Cars are loaded up, and circle members deliver the bounty to the assigned families.

It is a heartwarming experience to witness the joy and appreciation on the faces of these families. PW Circles look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

Vicki Rosenquist is PW Moderator.



PW women gather to wrap gifts for distribution to families in need in the Jessieville School District. They are (from left) Barbara Fuquay, Anne Bailey, Carol Clark, Susan Pendergrass, and Norma Stevens. *(Jamie Federick photo)*



Millie Croson and Susan Morrow prepare to deliver Christmas gifts and food for Circle 1. *(Bob Morrow photo)*



Seeing friends at Gathering was very uplifting



The Rev. Carol Clark addressing PW's December Gathering. (Bob Morrow photo)

By Vicki Rosenquist

Some 30 Presbyterian Women and a few men joined together on Dec. 14 to enjoy an untraditional December Gathering.

Following the pandemic guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing, the group enjoyed listening to a very animated Rev. Carol Clark present the Bible story of Zechariah and Gabriel (*Luke 1:18-25*).

Randy and Donna Toney treated us to several beautiful Christmas hymns and two spectacular piano duets.

Even though we could not have the traditional luncheon because of the pandemic, everyone enjoyed the time and fellowship we shared. Just seeing friends for the first time in months was an uplifting experience.

We look forward to our next Gathering in March when, hopefully, we can once again include a delicious luncheon.

Vicki Rosenquist is Moderator of Presbyterian Women.



Loading Christmas gifts and food as part of the PW program are (from left) Barb Henry, Cindy Morgan, Rosalyn Halbert, Sue New and Gloria Hepner. (Mary Ann Reynolds photo)



Rosalyn Halbert, Mary Ann Reynolds and Gloria Hepner have another PW Christmas load ready to go. (Barb Henry photo)



Happy dates



Birthdays

Jan.1 Wayne Copeland
 Jan.2 Jerry Carroll
 Jan.3 Dorothy Stroupe
 Jan.4 Jeanne Lowenthal
 Jan.6 Donald Elsenheimer
 Marsha Huff

Jan. 6 Susan Unger
 Jan.9 Mike Carpenter
 Jan.10 Priscilla Hayek
 Jan.12 Debra Cordell
 Jan.14 Karen Ammann
 Darell Fisher

Jan.18 Ted Sampsel
 Jan.22 Jerral Johnson
 Jan.25 Linda Hommema
 Halene Strautman
 Jan.31 Marcia Bauer
 Emily Faulk

Anniversaries

January 3 Dotty and Gary Rector
 January 23 Jean and Darell Fisher

40 years
 61 years

January 26
 January 29

Marty and Art Volkema 64 years
 Marty and John Davis 27 years



Wearing a mask can be a definition of freedom

By Lowell Gardner

The English word freedom, similar to the words love or joy, is often difficult to clearly define out of context. Such a word may be associated with a style of clothing or a type of dessert or a level of personal conduct or commitment.

The spring of 1787 found, for the fledgling United States “in” America, the word freedom facing such a dilemma.

While organized as a loosely connected association of independent states under Articles of Confederation and though having successfully defeated a major European military power on the field of battle to earn their independence [freedom], they faced economic collapse, a potential risk to their economic and political “freedom.”

Representative delegates met in Philadelphia to address the issue. In a real shock to many, the end result was an entirely new structure [constitution] defining a strong central federal government. So engaged the debate.

In a somewhat oversimplification of the argument, the “Federalists” [advocates] declared a well-financed representative central government the best setting for a

free people. The “Anti-Federalists” [opponents] defended a well-financed but smaller, more locally representative government to secure personal freedom. The one point of agreement was the need for a leadership maintaining “civil virtue.”

VIRTUE!

Another of those words. In *Matthew 22*, a learned Pharisee asked Jesus to identify the greatest commandment. Jesus quoted *Deuteronomy 6:5* and *Leviticus 19:18*. *Love God with all you are and love your neighbor as yourself*. Not a bad definition of a virtuous citizen.

How about freedom? When at peace with one’s God and engaged in the welfare of fellow human beings equal to one’s own - are you not, in fact, truly free?

Today we wear a mask and practice social-distancing for personal and social safety, shop safely ourselves (and perhaps also for another who can’t), communicate with the isolated, conduct business safely (creatively), and remain intelligently informed. Doesn’t this define freedom!

Lowell Gardner is a 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

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

275 Asturias Drive

Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

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

Email: kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net

www.kirkinthepines.org

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

