

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVII, Issue 10, October 2021

Protecting the safety of the congregational flock is the Kirk Session's highest on-going priority

As the months pass it is hard to believe we are still living with a pandemic.

Much has changed for the Kirk during this time. Even as you have struggled to adjust your lives to the pandemic, the Session has wrestled to come to terms with the impact of covid on the life of our congregation and our ability to worship, pray, and have fellowship together.

Decision-making has not been made easier by the varied and often conflicting information and guidance available from the media and government.

Throughout, the Session has prioritized the safety of our highly vulnerable flock while trying to provide meaningful worship and fellowship. Our goal was to reduce the risk of spreading the virus by making things as safe as possible while knowing we can't guarantee 100-percent safety.

We have had members of our congregation contract covid, but we have been blessed not to have an outbreak of the virus traceable to worship or other Kirk activities.

The recent surge due to the Delta variant – along with information indicating vaccinated individuals can acquire and potentially pass on the virus – led to the current status quo for in-person worship. This means in-person worship is for vaccinated individuals only and wearing masks during worship is required.



A decision was made to allow the choir to participate in worship and members can remove their masks for the special music if they chose to. The rationale for doing so was as follows.

While we are not certain of the vaccination status of all who enter the sanctuary for worship, we know all choir members are fully vaccinated. We know choir members only participate if they are well and have not had a known covid exposure.

Also, the choir is far enough away from the congregation to minimize the risk of exposure (more than 12 feet). The choir will follow the practice of the congregation by wearing masks during hymn singing and entering and leaving the sanctuary.

For memorial services, which are usually outdoors, we have continued to request participants wear masks and have encouraged being vaccinated. Because of the sensitive nature of the occasion, restrictions have not been forced on family members and guests.

We have been very encouraged by your faithfulness and the love and care you continue to show to one another and the community. We are also very grateful for your support as we work to find the best path through the pandemic while always remembering "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" *Psalms 46:1*.

– *Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Session*

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



God is good to us. It's time to be generous in return

Several years ago, a seminary professor I had made a helpful distinction. She explained the difference between a covenant and a contract.

Both are agreements, but a contract, she suggested, is something we choose to get involved with, usually for our own advantage. We negotiate terms, we barter for services or pay, but in the end, we almost always agree to a contract with this question in mind, "What's in this for me?"



Cheryl Boehmke, a member of the Finance Committee, will be chairperson for the stewardship campaign. Cheryl joined the Kirk in September of 2020. (Bob Morrow photo)

Covenants are a little different. In covenants, we begin with a gift – something we receive and did not earn. In covenants, this professor said, we do not negotiate out of self-interest; instead, we receive gifts. Our appropriate response is always gratitude and service.

You and I are in a covenant with God. We are the recipients of God's gifts and grace. We do not earn God's love. God's grace has been given to us, freely, in Christ.

But we are not free to do as we please. We are obligated to be trustees of these gifts as we give of our time, talent, and

treasure in faithful service.

While every day is an opportunity for us to give, October is the beginning of our fall Stewardship Campaign. This is when we try to help our elders plan

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



for the Kirk's program and mission giving for the upcoming year.

Cheryl Boehmke and the stewardship committee have been working hard and will share this year's plans with the congregation in worship Oct. 3. She will outline how this year's campaign will proceed.

In the meantime, let us remember we stand on the shoulders of others and benefit from their gifts. We have received, as the Biblical writer says, "houses we did not build, wells we did not dig and vineyards we did not plant." (*Deuteronomy 6:10-11*)

We have a wonderful legacy of Presbyterians who built the Kirk and the sanctuary we worship in. Generous people who supported missions and who gave of themselves without asking "What's in this for me?"

We are the stewards of these wonderful gifts. We do not possess this property to do as we please—instead, we hold these gifts in trust, to be used for the work of the Lord in this community and throughout the world.

Let us be grateful for God's good gifts to us. And let us seek to be faithful with the time, talents and treasures we have been given. We live in covenant with a generous God – a God who calls us to be generous as well.



Library sparkles

We all have Sharon and Lowell Gardner to thank for cleaning up and organizing the Kirk library. Sharon says there is still work to be done cataloging new and returned books but the library is now back in use as an inviting space for meetings and as a refuge for reading and contemplation. (Bob Morrow photo)

Two canopies purchased to protect from weather

Church Statistics as of Sept. 19, 2021:

Members – 273, family units – 185

It is sad to announce the loss of some of the Kirk's long-term members:

Bob Wessel passed away Aug. 21 in Hot Springs. The memorial and interment were Aug. 26 in the Kirk sanctuary and columbarium in the Kirk Memorial Garden.

Joe Perryman passed away Sept. 4 in Eudora, Kan. A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Oct. 23 in the Memorial Garden, followed by a reception in Hoffius Hall.

Shirley Siska passed on Sept. 15 in Hot Springs. The memorial service and interment were Sept. 23 in the Memorial Garden.

Interment services were held for several members in August and September.

Helen Sheehan was interred in the Memorial Garden on Aug. 20.

Don and Betty Robinson were interred Aug. 20 in the Memorial Garden columbarium.

Harry Marshall was interred Sept. 13 in the Memorial Garden columbarium.

Cynthia Chaffin was interred Sept. 15 in a private ceremony in the Memorial Garden.

The Clerk's Corner Jerral Johnson



Two canopies have been purchased by the Kirk. They will be used to provide protection from the elements during outside activities. They have provided shade for many of those attending recent memorial and interment services in the Memorial Garden.

The annual Session retreat will be Nov. 2-3 at Ferncliff. This retreat has occurred annually until last year when it was canceled because of the pandemic. The retreat is an opportunity for Session members to plan future activities of the Kirk and assess past activities.

There was **a good turnout at the annual picnic**. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed an outstanding fish and chicken dinner. Like the retreat, it had to be canceled last year, so it was good to get back together and enjoy the fellowship with Kirk members.



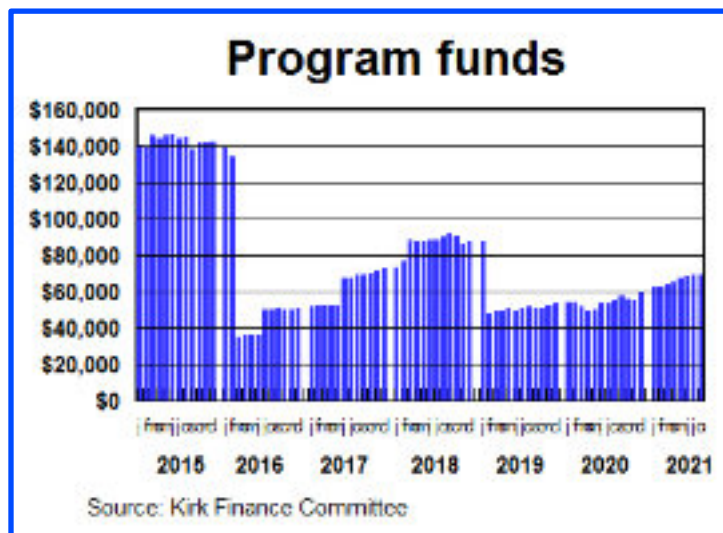
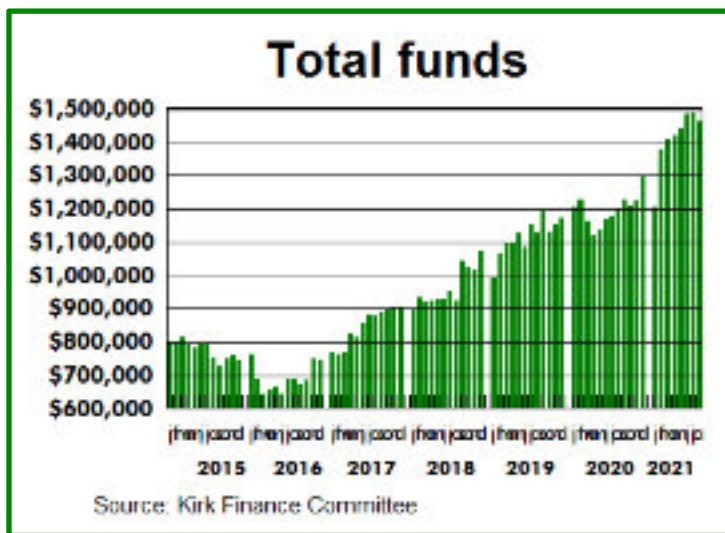
First choir rehearsal in ...

Randy Toney leads the Kirk choir in its first rehearsal since the outbreak of the covid pandemic. The choir, Randy, and Donna Toney (piano) were very pleased with the "live" acoustics of the renovated choir room. (Jamie Federick photo)

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of August 31, 2021

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,670	\$ 23,861	\$ 293,360	\$ 315,253
Disbursements	\$ 36,670	\$ 29,961	\$ 293,360	\$ 252,200
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,412	\$ 1,771	\$ 35,296	\$ 80,207
Disbursements	\$ 4,412	\$ 2,762	\$ 35,296	\$ 115,591
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 41,082	\$ 25,632	\$ 328,656	\$ 395,460
Disbursements	\$ 41,082	\$ 32,723	\$ 328,656	\$ 367,791
Checking balance				\$ 132,437
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 78,732
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 309,144
Programs fund				\$ 69,287
Endowment fund				\$ 796,016
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 75,402
Total special funds (as of July 31, 2021)				\$ 1,328,581



\$330 for Mission

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

A total of \$330 was collected in August.

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.



Attendees at the PW gathering "made a joyful noise" singing *Morning Has Broken* despite wearing masks and social distancing. (Bob Morrow photos)

Four PW Circles begin 2021-22 meetings this month

By Vicki Rosenquist

The Kirk's Presbyterian Women's Circles began their new year on Sept. 13 with a gathering in Hoffius Hall. Those attending received an informative message on prayer given by the Rev. Bill Bailey. Although there was no luncheon in September, we are praying we will be able to have a Christmas luncheon in December.

This month PW will begin meeting in our circle groups. We encourage and invite all women of the church to join us. We have several different meeting times to choose from.

If you've been a member of a circle before, but haven't attended for a while, please consider visiting again. This is a

wonderful way to involve yourself in fellowship and Bible study. Here are our the four circles:

Circle 1 meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday in Hoffius Hall. Susan Morrow is the leader, and they will be studying *Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting* by Holly W. Whitcomb. Martha Nielsen is the Bible study leader.

Circle 2 meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Monday in Hoffius Hall. Rosalyn

Halbert is the leader and Dotty Rector and Barb Henry share the Bible study leadership. This circle is continuing its study of the Horizon series, "The Ten Commandments."

Circle 3 meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday in the library at Good Sam's. Their leader is Helen Van Stone and Barbara Booth leads the Bible study. This circle uses devotional material such as "Upper Room" and "Daily Bread."

Circle 4 meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday in Hoffius Hall. Barbara Fuquay is group leader; Anne Bailey leads study of *Yes, Lord I Have Sinned, But I Have Several Excellent Excuses*, by James W. Moore.

As you can see, there are several different choices for you. We encourage you to visit one or all four circles and find one that is the best fit for you. If you are already a member of a circle, why not ask a church friend to join us this month?

Vicki Rosenquist is PW Moderator.



Susan Morrow provided special music and piano accompaniment for hymns at the gathering.



Ruth Hamilton lit the Christ candle reminding the gathering that "Jesus is the light of the world even in dark times and in sad times."



Delicious food highlights return of annual picnic



Satisfied diners (above) at the Kirk's annual picnic on Sept. 16 at Balboa Pavilion included (from left) John Davis, Sue New, Dave Hamilton, Ruth Hamilton, Ellen Wilborn, Jay Wilborn, Dotty Rector, Gary Rector, and Chuck New. At left, Vicki Rosenquist and Jean and Darell Fisher, members of the Fellowship Committee, served a feast of baked beans, amazing hush puppies, french fries, fried chicken, and fried catfish provided by Riverside Catering. Fellowship Moderator directing the picnic Ruth Richards (lower left) shared the meal with Ron Lovett. Below, Barb Henry, Judith Rosenthal and Norma Stevens pose for photographer Jamie Federick. We are all very grateful to Ruth and her committee for hanging in there through multiple false starts during the pandemic. It was worth it!





Waiting patiently (above) for their table number to be called are (from left) Bob Morrow, Denny Zymboly, Gloria Pickett, Eve Hampton-Webb, and Don Webb. It's clear in the photo below Suzy and Bob Still (left) and Jan and Arnie Holtberg were enjoying the occasion and the food. At the lower right, (from left) Brian MacDonald, James Knox, Bill Worthley, Janette Wiard, Bill Wiard, Barbara Worthley enjoyed their drinks while waiting to get their food.



Photos by Jamie Federick

Support Presbyterian global-peace initiatives

By Nancy Patton

In these difficult and troubling times, the Church must stand ready to extend Christ's peace to those who need to hear the message of justice and peace.

One way we extend Christ's peace is by participating in the Presbyterian Church USA Peace & Global Witness Offering. This special offering is one of four annual opportunities to give to special causes, usually on designated Sundays of the church calendar. Through this offering, the PCUSA has been honoring its commitment to peacemaking efforts around the world.

The Peace & Global Witness



Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. It provides resources to those who serve as international peacemakers dealing with conflict and providing nurturing reconciliation.

Twenty-five percent of the offering stays with local congregations, and 25 percent goes to Presbyteries and Synods, uniting

congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. The final 50 percent supports work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the globe.

Sunday, Oct. 3, is Peace and Global Witness offering Sunday. Envelopes will be available in your Sunday bulletin on Sept. 19 and 26 and Oct. 3. If you are unable to attend worship but would like to contribute to this PCUSA initiative, send your check to the Kirk office with a notation that your gift is for Peace and Global Witness.

Nancy Patton is Moderator of the Worship Committee.



Caught delivering the goodies

Members of the Outreach Committee were caught Aug. 31 delivering goodies to the Hot Springs Village police department as part of the Serve the Servants program. The program engages local congregations to take edible treats to our Village fire and police officers. The Kirk shares monthly deliveries to the police department with five other Village churches; Village Bible, Coronado Baptist, Barcelona Baptist, Balboa Baptist, and Village United Methodist. Shown here with Police Chief Ricky Middleton are (from left) Carol Clark (Outreach Moderator), Ellen Weber, Brian Nickles, Judith Rosenthal, and Marcia Bauer. *(Bob Morrow photo)*



You're not the only one who appreciates Pastor Bill! Help us help Kato (dog) show appreciation to Bill during Clergy Appreciation month. Let Bill know how much he is loved and valued during October in your own special way. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

Psalm 100

1. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
2. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3. Know ye that the Lord is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name.
5. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.



Psalm 100 is an expression of thanksgiving. Whatever circumstances you are facing in this moment during the pandemic, this Psalm tells us to remember God's goodness and dependability. This will change our attitudes and enable us to worship with thanksgiving and praise!

Contributed by Barbara Worthley, member of the Communication Committee.

Members' ties to Genesis program are cited

By Dotty Rector

"Going to Memphis."

That is the phrase used by many Kirk members when they talk about plans for their future -- the plans for their bodily remains after death.

It is no longer taboo to talk about such issues. In fact, the newspaper *Daily Memphian* featured the Kirk and Hot Springs Village in a lengthy article about Genesis, the Memphis-based program (<https://www.genesislegacy.org/news>).

As most Kirk members know, Genesis is the whole-body donation foundation which supplies bodies to the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) in Memphis.

MERI is an official training facility for doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals from across the country and around the world.

Jackie Morris, head of social service outreach, is well known to many Kirk members. She has been at the Kirk several times to tell members about Genesis and answer questions.

"I make more trips to the Village than other places" Morris says. She continues to be available by phone at 901 278-7841.

Many current Kirk members are proud their late spouses participated in this program. It is with a feeling

of comfort that one can continue to do good, even after death, they say.

Adding to one's comfort is knowing that bodies are treated reverently and draped, just as they would be in a hospital operating room. The whole experience is quite beautiful, they say.

When one reads about medical discoveries, Kirk members know their loved one could have been involved. That's a pretty good feeling!

For more information about the Genesis Legacy program visit [genesislegacy.org](https://www.genesislegacy.org).

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communications Committee.



Ben and Karen Meek.



Ron and Tina Kneisler. (Bob Morrow photos)

Two couples add their voices to the Kirk choir

Who's behind that mask? The Kirk choir welcomes two new couples to its ranks. Since we are masked like the rest of the congregation, it is hard to tell who is who. You must take a look while the anthem is being sung. During that time the choir is unmasked.

One new couple hails from Benton. They are Ron and Tina Kneisler. There are two reasons they chose to drive from Benton to the Village.

First, the style of the Kirk's music suits them. It is difficult to find a church choir that sings true four-part choral music, they say. Both are experienced singers. Tina has a music-education degree, continues to teach, and coaches Treble in the Village.

Ron says, "the Kirk choir works hard, but also enjoys themselves."

The second reason they chose the Kirk is the preaching of Pastor Bill Bailey. They are inspired by his sermons. They also think that the diversity of choir members' backgrounds is a big plus. "Everyone is from somewhere else and that's a wonderful thing."

The Kneislers also find the congregation friendly and outgoing.

Next, we introduce Ben and Karen Meek. They are very new to Hot Springs Village, moving here in mid-August. They call themselves "Methobapterians" describing their diverse denominational backgrounds.



Choir Notes

Dotty Rector

"Karen is the real musician," says Ben. She grew up in a small country church where there was much singing and where she and her sister sometimes sang duets. There was often informal, spontaneous singing.

Her parents put a high value on music, and she had voice and piano lessons in high school. She also sang, along with Ben, in "Masterworks Chorale" where they toured other countries, singing.

"We are thrilled we did it when we did." It probably wouldn't be possible these days. Ben also plays the trombone and may join one of the Village bands.

They both sang in church choirs and feel welcomed at the Kirk. Pastor Bailey has been especially helpful. And, they say, our piano and organ music are "over the top."

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.



Happy dates



Birthdays

Martha Nielsen	Oct. 1	Jim Reimers	Oct. 8	Marilyn Olson	Oct. 22
Charlotte Massey	Oct. 3	Dean Kerr	Oct. 9	Bill Durbin	Oct. 23
Clark Mowry	Oct. 3	Charles Bradley	Oct. 12	Frank Morgan	Oct. 24
Howard Baldwin	Oct. 4	Jim Erickson	Oct. 16	Jerry McAnarney	Oct. 25
Sharon Collar	Oct. 5	Gene Carlisle	Oct. 16	Janette Wiard	Oct. 25
Jean Eiler	Oct. 7	Rowena Easter	Oct. 20	Randy Toney	Oct. 27
Don Loveday	Oct. 7	Sissy Wilson	Oct. 21	Woodie Barefield	Oct. 29

Anniversaries

Oct. 10	Cheryle and Stanley Dean	57 Years	Oct. 20	Linda and Ted Hommema	48 Years
Oct. 17	Cindi and Jim Erickson	40 Years	Oct. 28	Joyce and Frank Leeming	48 Years

Pandemic has changed many Arkansas churches

By Susan Morrow

Unless you are a centenarian, you are living through your first pandemic. Like you, churches everywhere have had to adjust to challenges never imagined.

Our Kirk quickly adjusted, but you may have wondered how our sister congregations in the Presbytery of Arkansas have coped particularly during this recent surge in cases due to the Delta variant.

According to Stewart Smith, General Presbyterian for the Presbytery of Arkansas, “Churches and pastors are weary, tired, and exhausted. Most of the churches in the Presbytery shut down in-person services in 2020 and then resumed in-person worship in 2021 as new cases waned.

“Once the Delta variant surge took effect, most Arkansas congregations continued in-person worship while asking congregants to wear masks.”

Rev. Smith is a familiar name at the Kirk. He has often stepped in to fill the pulpit when our own Pastor Bill Bailey has been out.

Despite the disruption, the pandemic has had some unexpected results, according to Rev. Smith.

“The good news resulting from the shut-down of in-person worship was it forced us to consider ‘What is church?’,” he said.

“We had to examine ‘How we do church.’ It pushed

us to examine ways that technology can be used to connect us and to reach out creatively using technology.

“We are now able to reach a wider audience and have begun to realize there are other ways of worshiping. For many churches, current worship looks very different than pre-covid worship practices.”

Of course, there is the risk some may prefer to watch live-streamed services from home rather than attend worship in person. But Rev. Smith sums it up this way. “Technology has pushed us to reexamine what church membership looks like.”

He acknowledges physical connection has been a challenge.

“We needed to examine how utilizing electronic forms of technology can help us reach out in our ministry. Now we are pushed to utilize those resources such as Zoom technology. On the Presbytery level, we are connected much more than before.

“Attendance at committee meetings increased with Zoom. There are now monthly online webinars and classes through Zoom. The pastors’ gatherings have increased participation. Through utilizing email lists and Facebook, the Presbytery has developed new connections.

“Yes, we grieve the loss of physical connection but the electronic options for reaching out are an important tool to use in the future.”

Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.



Stewart Smith

Judy Corwin says thanks for 9/11 support

On Sept. 11, 2021, many patriotic Villagers attended the first Village Patriot Day at Woodlands Auditorium. Hours, days, and months of my time writing, arranging photos, and selecting video for this program came together.

I was as proud of the members of this church who participated in the presentation as I was in the show, itself ... from the Federick's help in the pre-publicity contained in the church newsletters to talented Fran Stroud. Sharon Gardner, and Patty Van Cleave with their quartet "sisters" Kathy Allison and Kristine Ponder, along with my



Members of the Kirk and others participated in the Patriot Day tribute at the Woodlands auditorium on September 11, 2021. From the left seen here in the finale to the program are Judy Corwin, Chuck Miller, Bev Bullard, Jack Lafrate, Amy Green, Kathy Allison, Patty Van Cleave, Sharon Gardner, and Kristi Ponder. (*Jamie Federick photo*)

pal, Beverly Bullard, who kept me sane through it all ... if that is ever possible!

Thank you to the members of this church who sit in our pews each Sunday – who took the time to sit in

the seats that day and joined others in supporting the three National Memorials which will benefit future generations to Never Forget.

Judy Ann Corwin

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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