

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXV1II, November 2022



After three years, Thanksgiving dinner is back!

After three years, the long-awaited opportunity to share a Thanksgiving meal together has finally arrived.

This Thanksgiving – Nov. 24 – a scrumptious offering of turkey, ham, and all the “fixins” will be served at 12:30 p.m. in Hoffius Hall. There

will be pumpkin and pecan pie to top it all off.

The special event is hosted by the Fellowship Committee and catered by Clampits Country Kitchen. The cost will be \$12 for Kirk members and \$14 for visitors.

Sign up at worship services and

coffee hour through Nov. 20. Take-out orders can be made when you sign up.

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating a truly wonderful Thanksgiving meal.

Ruth Richards,
Fellowship Committee Moderator

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



Take time to give thanks for all we have

November is the season for our national thanksgiving. Beginning with our Puritan ancestors and continuing through the Civil War, when it became an official date, we have set aside the fourth Thursday of November as a day to express our gratitude. At a time when our nation was being torn apart by slavery, President Lincoln called for a day of thanksgiving.

Of course, for us, this often gets lost in all the commotion of preparing meals, family get-togethers and watching way too much football. We all know how easy it is to get caught up in the travel, or the events of the day and simply forget to give thanks.

It is also easy to forget that many of our neighbors and friends will celebrate this holiday alone. There are many Kirk members and friends who have lost loved ones this last year. Holidays can be a difficult time.

Still, it is good to give thanks. We set aside a day to focus on what has been given, not just on what has been lost. We remember that all of life is a gift of God. Every day is a cherished gift. We are profoundly blessed by a loving and generous God who is with us in all of life.

As people of faith, we are continuing our season of giving here at the Kirk. It is especially fitting to remember we are stewards of God's good gifts, and we

The Pastor's Corner *Bill Bailey*



are called to return thanks by giving to the work of our Lord and the mission of his church.

If you have not done so already, please return your "estimate of giving" card to the church office so our Session can complete its plans for the coming year.

Your generous giving enables the Kirk to reach out in Christ's name and to support important missions locally and internationally.

We have much to be thankful for. Let us make certain we make time to give thanks.

Getting ready to wait ... and wait ... for Advent

Sometimes it seems we spend our lives waiting.

We wait for rain and then we wait for the sun to shine on our sodden gardens.

We wait for a cure, and when no cure comes, we wait for death.

In the middle of the night, tired eyes wait for the sunrise. At the end of a long day, tired limbs wait for nightfall and the rest of sleep.

Pastor Steve Lindsley of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C., said: "Life is messy. Pain, grief, sorrow, heartache, hatred, death, fear – it's like one mess right after another. And God comes to be with us in all of it."

Is this what we are waiting for?

In the Advent season, beginning Nov. 27, we wait for the Advent of Emmanuel, the fulfillment of God's promise to be with us.

Frederick Buechner once said: "We must all decide for ourselves whether it is true, this *Emmanuel*"... (not) sentimentality or wishful thinking, (but the) wild hope of Christmas."

In the next issue of Voice in the Pines, we will publish a selection of Advent resources you may want to use, while you wait.

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Moderator of the Communication Committee.



Building projects are moving along at the Kirk

During October, the Kirk lost three members.

Cal Sloma passed away Oct. 2, 2022. There was a visitation for Cal at 10 a.m. Oct. 7 at the Hot Springs Funeral Home. Graveside services were at the Cedar Vale Cemetery in Hot Springs Village.

Gloria Pickett passed away Oct. 4, 2022. Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, in the Memorial Garden with a reception to follow.

Pat Franklin requested her name be removed from the Kirk membership roll since she has relocated to Granbury, Texas.

Other Memorial Services:

A memorial service for the **Rev. Donald E. Trent** will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 3 with a reception to follow. Rev. Trent passed away on March 22, 2021.

Church Statistics:

As of Oct. 14, 2022: Members – 249; family units – 164.

Committee Reports:

Building Committee – The lady's restroom at the back of the sanctuary is almost finished. There are only a few changes to complete. Another project being worked on is to improve the lighting in the breezeway.

Finance Committee – A committee was given the responsibility to evaluate the financial records and if they

To make sure your obit is the way it should be, write it yourself today

Everyone wants their obituary to be just right. To make sure your obit is the way you want it, we urge you to write it yourself now, before it's needed. Save it on your computer or print out a copy and give it to someone you trust.

When a person dies, there is a lot of confusion, anxiety and emotion. Often writing the obituary falls to someone who doesn't know you and hasn't a clue about the many good and interesting things that happened in your life. That's why it is best for you to write your own obituary.

When we announced last May we would begin publishing obituaries in this Kirk newsletter, we included a "how-to" page describing the essentials of a solid account of your life. We're republishing it this month on page 10.

Take a few moments to check it out and then write your own obituary. We'll all be glad to see it and appreciate the wonderful life you've had.

The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



follow correct financial procedures. Their report was presented in the September Session meeting and approved at the October meeting.

Grounds/Memorial Committee – The committee has been active improving safety along the walks and stairs. They have recently covered much of the garden area with bark mulch.

Fellowship Committee – In the next few weeks there will be several fellowship activities for the congregation. At 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 26, there will be a Chili Cook-off in Hoffius Hall. On Nov. 24, Clampits will cater the Thanksgiving Dinner. Cost will be \$12 for Kirk members and \$14 for guests. On Dec. 14, a potluck luncheon will be in Hoffius Hall. The program will be a Christmas Carol sing along with Donna and Randy Toney helping with the program. There will also be an ugly sweater contest.

Mission Committee – The committee is asking individuals attending church and other activities at the Kirk to bring a can of food. The cans may be deposited in the collection boxes in the sanctuary foyer, at the entrance to the Kirk office, and in Hoffius Hall. This will be given to the different organizations in the Hot Springs and Hot Springs Village area that serve those in need. It is suggested to select cans that have a pull tab for easy opening.

Communications Committee – The committee is aware of problems with the website including the newsletter tab. Patty Barnes is working with the website vendor to address these problems.

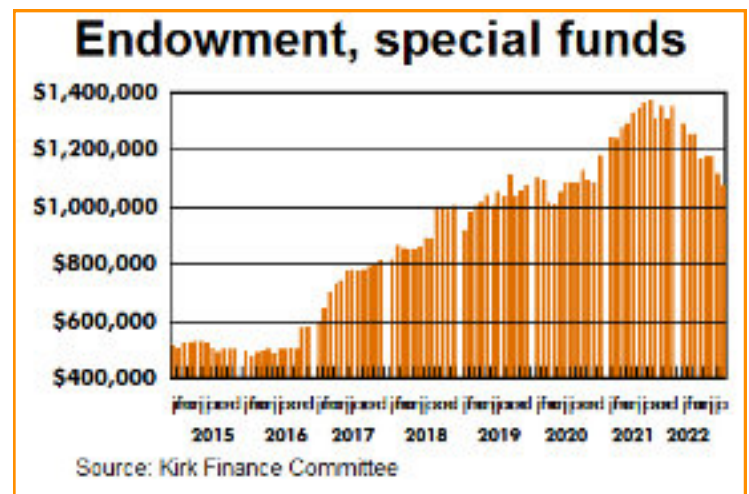
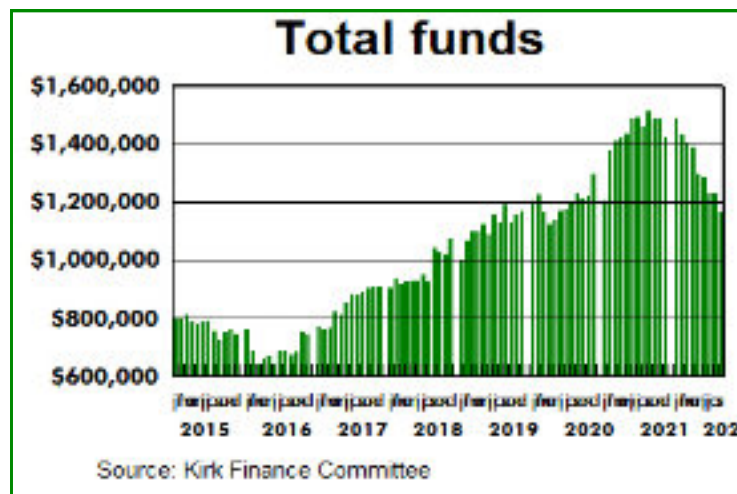
Other Session Discussion: It was suggested the Session revisit locking church doors when services are being held. This will be discussed at the November meeting. We do want to keep the congregation safe, but we need to make sure latecomers can still access the sanctuary.

The **annual Session retreat** will be Dec. 15-16 at Ferncliff.

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of September 30, 2022

	Month		Year to date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 37,974	\$ 18,462	\$ 341,766	\$ 301,094
Disbursements	\$ 37,974	\$ 34,396	\$ 341,766	\$ 297,406
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,848	\$ 2,533	\$ 43,632	\$ 30,692
Disbursements	\$ 4,848	\$ 5,984	\$ 43,632	\$ 47,614
Total all Funds:				
Receipts	\$ 42,822	\$ 20,995	\$ 385,398	\$ 331,786
Disbursements	\$ 42,822	\$ 40,379	\$ 385,398	\$ 345,020
Checking Balance				\$ 89,308
Special Funds:				
Memorial Fund				\$ 66,406
Luke 12:48 Fund				\$ 257,677
Programs Fund				\$ 33,579
Endowment Fund				\$ 666,602
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 49,458
Total Special Funds (as of Aug 31, 2022)				\$ 1,073,722



\$123 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of \$123 was collected in September.

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.

A gentle reminder ...

Your generosity as a congregation is truly remarkable and allows the Kirk to support the Kingdom work of our Lord in many ways.

Historically, over 96 percent of pledges by Kirk members are fulfilled by year end. As this year draws to a close, and pledging begins for another year at the Kirk, please accept this gentle reminder to complete your pledge contributions for 2022.



The Earl Mulley family donated this beautiful Yamaha piano to the Kirk. It has had pride of place in their home for at least 35 years. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

Earl and Barbara Mulley donate piano to the Kirk for use in Hoffius Hall

By Dotty Rector

A gift to the Kirk will arrive soon in Hoffius Hall. It is a “new” piano, a gift from Earl and Barbara Mulley.

Director of Music Randy Toney says he and Donna are “thrilled with the Mulley’s piano. It is a nice Yamaha spinet in excellent condition.” Donna says, “We are very grateful to Earl and Barbara for this lovely instrument.”

The Yamaha will replace a Hamilton piano and an electronic piano. They will be donated to Habitat For Humanity or a small church that doesn’t have a piano or organ.

In talking with Barbara, we learn the Yamaha piano is Earl’s. He grew up in a musical home. His father loved jazz and had a little jazz combo which played around New Orleans, so Earl grew up hearing a lot of piano music and took piano lessons himself.

Earl preferred classical music and played it for his own enjoyment both in their home in St. Louis, then in Hot Springs Village. They have cherished the piano for thirty-five years. Earl can no longer play the instrument because of physical limitations and he was hoping to pass it on to a child.

That didn’t work out, so when Barbara learned the Kirk needed a piano, she asked Earl if he would like to donate it to the Kirk. Earl, with humor very much intact, said: “Well, I’m going to be there for all eternity (in the Memorial Garden), so why shouldn’t my piano be too?”

They both felt the instrument will be used and enjoyed at the Kirk.

“All instruments should be played and loved,” said Barbara.

We are so grateful to the Mulley’s for this special gift.

Dotty Rector is a member of the Communication Committee.





Beautiful quilts

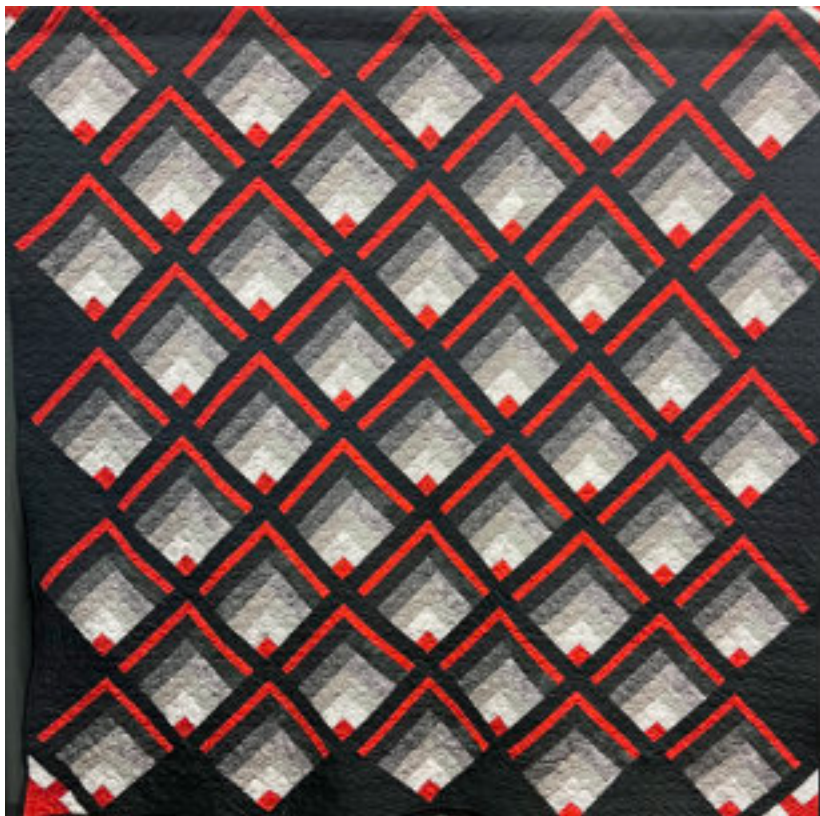
Both Susan Morrow and Anne Bailey served on the organizing committee for the Arkansas Village Quilt Show, a biennial event presented in September 2022 by the Hot Springs Village Quilt Guild.

Susan and Anne both displayed quilts among the more than 200 presented at the show.

Susan's quilt (top left) entitled "Child's Play," a first-place prize winner, is her own design, making use of an imaginative and abstract arrangement of shapes of children's building blocks.

Anne's quilt uses a pattern called "Waterfall," but she christened it "Down a Rabbit Hole." She made the quilt and chose colors accordingly for her grandson, Samuel Tull, who will be attending the University of Georgia.

Proceeds from the quilt show are used to provide quilts to comfort those in need and educate the community on the art of quilting.





Marion Humphrey (center) considers comments by Arnie Holtberg during the *Broken Signposts* book study final session. With Holtberg and Humphrey is LuDean Walston. (Susan Morrow photo)

Justice through history discussed at book study

By Bob Morrow

Judge and Rev. Marion Humphrey was guest speaker at the “Broken Signposts” book study on Sept. 29.

Judge Humphrey took a wrong turn and was late (was there a broken signpost along the way?) and Arnie Holtberg stepped in to begin the discussion on justice, truth, and power. When Judge Humphrey arrived, he chose because of time, to limit his presentation to the subject of “justice.”

The setup was casual with tables in a rectangular arrangement putting everyone at ease. Judge Humphrey brought insights on justice that were drawn from his life experience, his experience as a judge, and his deep understanding of the Gospel of John, the Bible as a whole, and his Christian faith.

As attendee Ruth Hamilton put it, “Marion Humphrey’s approach to justice was very pastoral, that is, how justice plays out in people’s

lives.”

For Carol Clark, his approach was “not political but he related the topic of truth and justice from a Christian perspective and from the standpoint of someone committed to his faith.”

In *Broken Signposts*, author, pastor, and Bible scholar N.T. Wright identifies “justice” as something we all inherently believe is important but often seems not achieved.

Bev Carpenter shared one insight from Judge Humphrey, in keeping with Wright, was that in this world one person’s justice may be another’s injustice. Wright sees the Gospel of John as telling the story of how God will put things to right, bring justice, through Jesus.

In the Gospel of John, particularly after chapter 12, Jesus is in the center of a justice/injustice drama resulting in the ultimate injustice of the crucifixion. In the resurrection, injustice is defeated.

Susan Morrow remembers

Humphrey posing several probing questions during his visit, one related to suffering. Humphrey asked “Why is it that Jesus’ followers are surprised by suffering? If Jesus endured injustice, suffering and the indignity of a mock trial, why would we as his followers not anticipate a similar response from the world?”

Jean Mowry felt Judge Humphrey helped clarify the dichotomy between “truth as the world views and understands it” and “truth as God sent Jesus to embody the way, the truth, and the life.”

Humphrey, along with Wright, also emphasized the Christian’s role of becoming the face of Christ to others through unity, encouragement, and as “justice bringers” that work toward the New Creation when justice will be established for eternity.

Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.



'Tis the season to fill the food pantry boxes

John Davis, Missions Committee member and Food Pantry coordinator, asks that we remember those who are suffering from food insecurity – especially as the holidays approach. We need your help to fill our food pantry boxes, which are located throughout the Kirk.

The best donations are canned foods with pull-top tabs, and dry goods, such as boxed dressing.

There is no limit on how much you can donate. Be sure your donations are unopened and not past their sell by date. John will be delivering food to the pantries we support on Nov. 21 and Dec. 20.

The Missions Committee suggests a simple rule of thumb. Bring a can of food or other food donation every time you attend an activity at the Kirk.

Save the date to “make merry” for Christmas

Mark your calendars for a seasonal potluck luncheon, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee, at noon Dec. 14 in Hoffius Hall.

In addition to great food, the event will feature Donna and Randy Toney leading a Christmas Carol sing-along. There will also be an ugly Christmas sweater contest for those who choose to compete.

A Daily Prayer

Strengthen me this day, O Lord
for all that lies ahead.
Keep me in your care always
and grant my daily bread.
Instruct me in your paths
as I put my trust in You.
Show Your love through all I say
and everything I do.

Forgive me in Your mercy
whenever I am wrong.
Wash my heart of sin and guilt
and make my spirit strong.
Make me glad to lend my hands
to all who are in need.
Help me to relieve their pain,
and may they soon be freed.

I offer You my thanks, dear God
for all You've done for me.
Hear my prayers and raise me up
to closer with you be.

– *Anonymous*

I found this prayer on a well-worn bookmark in my mother's Bible after her death. The bookmark had a Salvation Army logo, but the prayer was unattributed. She was a devout Christian with an uncomplicated but strong faith.

Bob Morrow,
Communication Committee Moderator



PW Circles have lively start; meet again Nov. 14

Warm fellowship and lively Bible study filled the Kirk, morning, afternoon, and evening, as the first full Circle meetings of the year began on Oct. 10.

Circle 1 met at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Circle 2 met at 10 a.m. in the conference room, and Circle 3 met at 7 p.m. in the Kirk library.

This month they'll be meeting Nov. 14 to share with each other and learn more about life in Christ. The Presbyterian Women's special Thank Offering will be taken.

For more information, call Ruth Hamilton at 501 915-9015. Newcomers are always welcome.



Happy dates



Birthdays

Nov. 1	Rick Federick	Nov. 13	Judith Rosenthal	Nov. 21	Bobbie Brooks
Nov. 4	Yvonne Jones	Nov. 16	Lucy Allen	Nov. 22	E.J. Pangle
	Bruce Dale	Nov. 19	Bob Corwin	Nov. 23	Mary Ann Krieger
Nov. 5	Walter Fuquay		Gloria Klomsten	Nov. 27	Linda Bates
	Tom Hayek		Ken Wolf		Helen Fisher
Nov. 7	Steve Stevens	Nov. 20	Bob Huff	Nov. 29	Dennis Faulk
Nov. 11	Ethelee Beverly		Janie Smith	Nov. 30	Katy Hill

Anniversaries

Nov. 9	Judy and Jerry Carroll	54 years	Nov. 17	Sharon and Lowell Gardner	32 years
Nov. 14	Sue and Chuck New	58 years	Nov. 18	Priscilla and Tom Hayek	45 years
Nov. 16	Gloria and Steven Klomsten	41 years	Nov. 25	Ruth and Burle Mattingly	58 years
	Ellen and Jay Wilborn	44 years			

Choir's Christmas concert will be on Dec. 11

The sounds of Christmas will fill the air at the Kirk Choir's Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

Choir members have already been working hard to prepare an exciting program of traditional and new Christmas works. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors.

The First Noel will feature the ladies of the choir in a new arrangement by one of our favorites, Dan Forrest. As one reviewer put it, "this anthem takes time to savor the beauty and meaning of the Nativity scene and to communicate directly to the heart of the miracle of the Incarnation."

A beautiful new anthem, *When Stars Shone Down*, is a soothing lullaby with simple, understated text evoking the marvelous majesty of Christ's birth.

In another piece, the choir foretells



Choir Notes

By Randy Toney

our church's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in *We Shall Light a Thousand Candles*. This spirited anthem has become a seasonal favorite for all.

Sharing the program will be instrumentalists and handbell ringers, always a treat at Christmas time. And, as an added treat, Carol Clark will lead a group who will present a reception in Hoffus Hall after the concert.

Finally, the Mission Committee asks we each bring a canned good to donate to Project Hope.

We invite you all to join us at 3 p.m. on Dec. 11 in the Kirk sanctuary. Be sure to put it on your calendar.



Here are key elements for preparing an obituary

This is a list of topics usually included in an obituary. Not everything on the list might be relevant to your specific situation, so feel free to omit items as you and/or family see fit.

NAME / ANNOUNCEMENT

• Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any.

- Age at death.
- Brief description of the deceased's main achievements in life, such as occupation.
- Day and date of death (include the year).
- Place of death.
- Cause of death.

LIFE

- Date of birth.
- Place of birth.
- Names of parents.
- Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends.
- Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse.
- Education: school, college, university and other.
- Designations, awards, and other recognition.
- Employment: jobs, professional organizations (if active), stories, colleagues
- Places of residence.
- Hobbies, sports, interests, activities of particular enjoyment.
- Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held.
- Achievements.
- Unusual attributes, humor, other stories.

FAMILY

- Survived by (and place of residence):
 - Spouse.
 - Children (in order of date of birth, and their spouses).
 - Grandchildren.
 - Great-grandchildren.
 - Great-great-grandchildren.
 - Parents.
 - Grandparents.
 - Siblings (in order of date of birth).
 - Pets (if appropriate).
- Preceded in death by (and date of death):
 - Spouse.
 - Children (in order of date of birth).
 - Siblings (in order of date of birth).

SERVICE

- Day, date, time, place.
- Visitation information if applicable: day, date, time, place.

A sample obituary for John Q. Doe

John Q. Doe, an electrical engineer for more than 30 years, died Feb. 30, 2022, of cancer at his home in Hot Springs Village. He was 81 years old.

John, a member of the Kirk in the Pines for 17 years, was the son of the late Mary and Sam Doe. He was born in Madison, Wisc., and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in engineering.

After graduating, John served the U.S. Army for four years, using his engineering talents to help build Army facilities in Europe and on several bases in the United States.

In 1973, John married Joan Smith and the couple settled in Denver where John worked for a large engineering firm and Joan pursued her career as a physical therapist.

The Does had two children – son Henry and daughter Claire – and were active in First Presbyterian Church in Denver.

John and his wife were avid golfers and found Hot Springs Village the ideal place to move to when they retired in 2004. The Does also enjoyed playing bridge and traveling.

At the Kirk, John enjoyed working on the building and grounds committee and helping to maintain the church's facilities.

Surviving are his wife, Joan, son Henry of Los Angeles and Claire of Chicago, and four grandchildren.

A memorial service will be scheduled later.

Friends may donate to the \$9 million John Doe Memorial Fund set up to build a large indoor swimming pool in the woods on the Kirk's western property.

- Reception information if applicable: day, date, time, place.
- Other memorial, vigil, or graveside services if applicable: day, date, time, place.
- Place of interment.
- Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements.
- Where to call for more information (even if no service planned).

OTHER

- Memorial funds established.
- Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses.

Cal Sloma, Navy veteran, successful businessman, avid golfer, dies at 95

Calvin Lou Sloma, a Navy veteran and successful businessman in Houston, passed away on Oct. 2, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society facility in Hot Springs Village. He was 95 years old.

Cal was born in West Columbia, Texas on April 21, 1927, to Arthur Bryan Sloma and Valda Mae Pogue Sloma. He graduated from West Columbia High School and Sam Houston State University. He was a veteran of the United States Navy.

Cal was born in Texas and his lovely wife, Nita, was born in Hawaii before it became a State. They were married in 1953 and worked in Texas before moving to the Village in 1985.

They were married 65 years until her death in 2018, just two weeks before her 103rd birthday. Their son Jerry was born in Houston.

Cal was a successful businessman in Houston. He and Nita enjoyed fishing, shrimping and swimming together.

However, it was golf that initially attracted them to Hot Springs Village.

They purchased a home here as an investment and ended up living in it when they eventually moved here. When Cal and Nita moved to the Village, they chose to

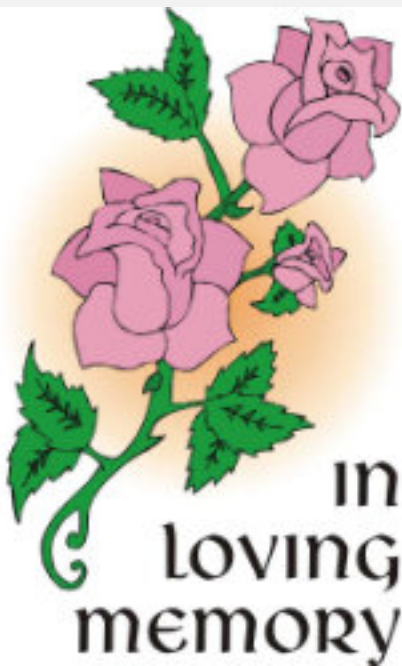


Calvin Lou Sloma

join the Presbyterian Kirk in The Pines. The Slomas were originally members of The First Presbyterian Church of Conroe, Texas.

Cal was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Arthur Guy Sloma, his wife Nita, and his daughter-in-law Adeline Sloma of Owasso, Okla. He is survived by his son, Jerry, of Owasso, his grandson Samuel Sloma, also of Owasso, and his stepdaughter Jean Krause of Gould, Colo.

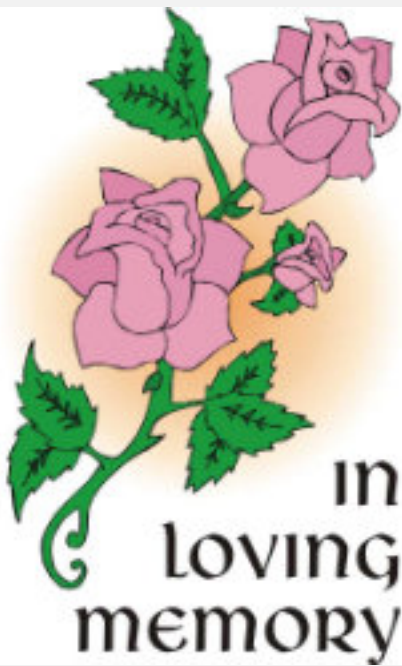
Cal was interred Oct. 7 in CedarVale Cemetery, Hot Springs Village following a visitation and graveside service led by the Rev. Bill Bailey, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.



Memorial service to be Nov. 3 for the Kirk's long-time pastoral associate Don Trent

A memorial service for The Rev. Don Trent, pastoral associate at the Kirk in the Pines from 2005-10, will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Hoffius Hall.

Don was born May 28, 1931, in Reidsville, N.C., to Robert E. and Essie Bruce Trent. He departed to be with the Lord on March 22, 2021. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Margaret (Peggy) Britt Trent; son Bruce A. Trent (Mimi M.), Grandson Bryan A. Trent, granddaughter Mabry M. Trent; and son Michael B. Trent.



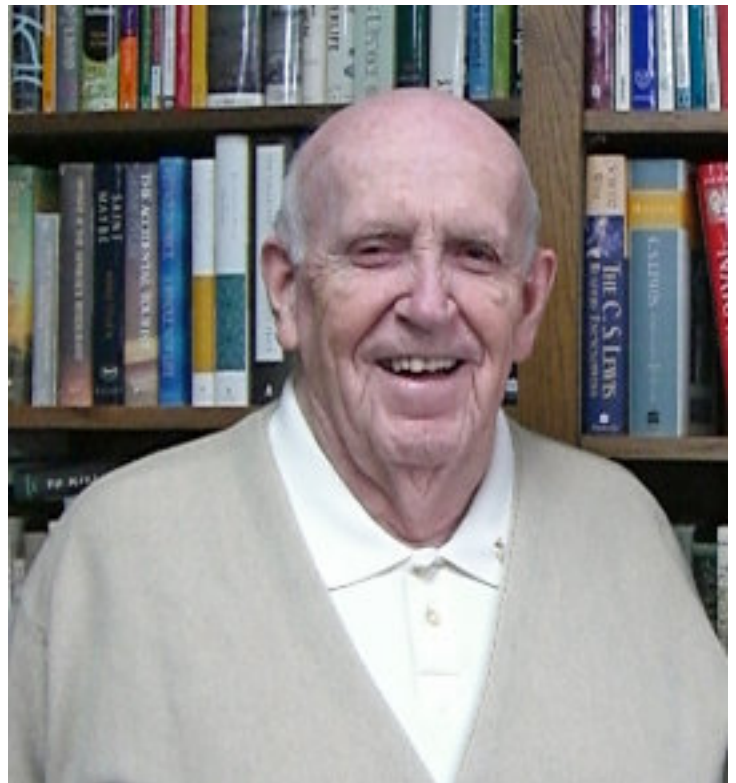
Don graduated from King University in Bristol, Tenn. He served his country for two years in the U.S. Army as an M.P. in Germany and then attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., receiving a Masters degree in Divinity. With further study he earned a Masters degree in Theology.

Don and Peggy met when he was in seminary and while she was attending Agnes Scott College,

which also is in Decatur.

During his ministry, Don served Presbyterian churches in the Menlo, Ga., area from June 1960 until April 1963. Peggy and Don then relocated to North Carolina where he served at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Sanford, N.C. (April 1963-July 1966) and Glenwood Presbyterian in Greensboro, N.C. (July 1966-Dec. 1976).

He continued his ministry at Murrells Inlet Church in South Carolina (Jan. 1977-Sept. 1981) before serving at First Presbyterian Church, Dickenson, Texas, where



The Rev. Don Trent

he served 15 years before retiring in 1996.

Following retirement, Don continued to serve the Lord in interim positions for Presbyterian churches in the Galveston, Texas, area before moving with Peggy to Hot Springs Village in 2004. In the Village, Don served as Pastoral Associate at the Kirk in the Pines from 2005 to 2010. He initiated the Saturday informal worship services and led them for many years.

Don and Peggy enjoyed traveling with their family and friends and organized a number of tour groups during their years at the Kirk. Michael remembers some of those trips being accompanied by the Kingston Trio playing on eight-track tape. Don was a family man, and his children remember they grew up lacking nothing.

Michael recalls his father's incredible patience, especially while he practiced playing the drums. And Bruce remembers the example of selfless service set by his father, an example that has greatly influenced his own life in public service.

"Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" *Matthew 25:23 (NIV)*

Water is the stuff of life, and a key biblical symbol

By **Lowell Gardner**

Water is life!

One can survive weeks without food, while a person's life is in peril in just four days without water. The human body is 60 percent water.

Webster defines symbol as "an object standing for or representing something else." The Creator/God would consider the central object of water in relationship with the Holiness or the "set-apartness" with Him.

Water was center stage in the creation of a people for Himself. In *Leviticus 8:1-6*, Moses was instructed, in readying Aaron, his sons and their garments for priestly duties, to wash them with water. *Leviticus, chapters 13-16*, lays before His people all the issues, medical and spiritual, where water is to be used.

All four gospel accounts report concerning John-the-Baptizer (or John the Baptist). Mark begins by quoting



Malachi 3 and *Isaiah 40* regarding a Messianic forerunner and a baptism symbolic of repentance to be illustrated by a life altered by goodness to God and fellow human beings.

All spoke further of baptism of the very Spirit of God which the Messiah would deliver. Following His crucifixion and resurrection, The Messiah Jesus (Jesus

Christ) spoke of that coming Spirit and delivered on that promise as recorded in *Acts of the Apostles 2:1-41*.

In the power of that Spirit the apostles went out to fulfill the great commission the Christ gave them in *Matthew 28:16-20* – to make disciples, baptizing them in the name of Father, Son and Spirit.

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

Congregational Care Coordinator – Carol Clark

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@gmail.com

www.kirkinthepines.org

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