

# A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXIX January 2023

## Winter weather strikes the Kirk, again

By Bob Morrow

“We had a Christmas surprise on Christmas Eve” was the way Pastor Bill Bailey summed the situation up. “We thought we were prepared but it looks like we weren’t.”

After the catastrophic broken-pipes water damage sustained in February 2021, Kirk leadership took the precaution of turning off the water in the Kirk building during the most-recent “bomb cyclone” winter storm.

Anticipating single-digit temperatures and uncertain precipitation, we notified the congregation water would be turned off from Wednesday to Saturday before the Christmas Eve service.

When the water was turned on Saturday afternoon, a leak was discovered immediately coming from the ceiling in the storage room across from the Kirk office, and penetrating through a light fixture.

The water was turned off quickly and damage was confined to a few wet boxes.

With no water, and, coincidentally, inadequate heating in the Sanctuary, services had to be cancelled on two of the most important days in the church calendar.

Plumber David Johnson, working with our sexton Chip Johnson (no relation), identified the leak quickly enough on Monday, Jan. 26. A split occurred in one of the pipes in the ceiling of the office over the storage room.

This area had not been involved in the water event in 2021. Interestingly, the water penetration into the storage room was a good 8 feet away from the split and likely was the result of the water creating a “fountain,” as Chip described it. The pipe was repaired in short order and water service was restored.

Precautions taken by Kirk staff, while not preventing



The culprit was this ruptured copper pipe in the ceiling over the office storeroom. Damage was limited to a few damp boxes. *(Chip Johnson photo)*

the rupture, clearly reduced the damage since all hands were on deck when the water was turned on.

Keep in mind there is a single water valve for the entire building located near Asturias Drive. Unfortunately, pipes in the area over the storeroom were not insulated.

Unlike in 2021, when power was lost and therefore heat in the office was lost as well, power remained on as did the heat this time around. But single-digit

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## When we meet

Sunday worship service  
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service  
4 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)



## Christmas for Christians continues until Jan. 6

Many of you know this already. On the Christian calendar, Christmas is not just one day. Instead, Christmas is a season lasting 12 days. Dec. 25 is Christmas, and so are the days following all the way until Jan. 6. Of course, we all remember the traditional English song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.



Jan. 6, for Christians in the west, marks the end of Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany – one of the important dates in our liturgical calendar.

Epiphany marks the visit of the three “wise men” who brought gifts for the king. We know, of course, they were not kings, they were not “wise men,” and we really do not know how many of them came. We assume there were only three because the Gospel writer, Matthew, tells us about three gifts.

Matthew calls them Magi. You may recognize this Persian word as the root of our English word “magician,” which might give us a hint of meaning.

The best scholarly guess is they were probably educated, perhaps religious astrologers. They claimed to interpret dreams and stars, and if Matthew has it right, they claimed they followed some sort of star – first to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem.

What makes the Magi especially important in

### The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



Matthew’s Gospel is their ethnicity. They are gentiles, not Jews. And they come bearing gifts for a newborn Jewish King – something Herod was not able to do. They recognized Jesus’ royalty with gifts, even when others, like Herod, cannot.

The Magi reflect one of the great themes of the Bible: that gentiles are somehow capable of responding to God’s work in the world.

Acting on the signs and wonders in nature, they eventually make their way and acknowledge Jesus is Israel’s true king. Their act of “paying homage” reminds us that Jesus’s ministry will someday embrace all nations.

The Magi represent all of us “outsiders” who now find ourselves worshiping Israel’s king. They are a reminder that in contrast to the violent kingdom of Herod, there is another peaceable kingdom that we are called to follow.

Emmanuel – “God with us” in all of life – is good news for all the world. This is good news for a New Year!

## 4 degrees cancels Kirk’s Christmas services

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temperatures and uninsulated pipes were likely to blame for this pipe freezing and rupturing.

Bill Worthley, Moderator of the Building Committee, is already at work planning for adding insulation to the pipes in the ceiling, at least those that have not been insulated. Bill also plans to explore adding independent water shut offs for the office building and the sanctuary so a water leak in the office building won’t interfere with programs in the sanctuary.

As if this wasn’t enough, heating in the sanctuary was inadequate to raise the sanctuary temperature above 50 degrees on Christmas Eve.

After consulting with our HVAC contractor Worthley

explained, “With a heat pump system at extremely low temperatures, the system has to rely on auxiliary or emergency electric elements to heat the air.”

Bill and the contractor had set the system to use the emergency electrical option on Friday. But, even at this maximal setting the system was not able to raise temperatures in the sanctuary above 50 degrees with external temperatures dropping to 4 degrees.

We are told this extreme arctic wave was a rare event. Hopefully, with the steps we will take to prevent further problems, these factors won’t coincide again on one of the two most significant times of the year for the Kirk.

*Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.*

## Congregation being asked to increase pledges

### Loss of Kirk Members:

We are saddened to report the loss of several long-time Kirk members. Ellen Weber passed away on Nov. 22. Jeanne Lowenthal passed away Dec. 16. Services will be at the Kirk at a later date. Carl Simmons passed away Dec. 18 after a short illness. Services are currently pending.

### Kirk statistics as of December 15, 2022:

Members – 246; family units – 161

### Nominees for Session:

The Nominating Committee for the Session has nominated the following individuals for appointment to the Session as Moderators for these committees:

Judith Rosenthal – Missions

Ben Meek – Member Outreach

Pat Kuntz – Fellowship

Dave Hamilton – Administration

Sharon Gardner – Finance

Election of these candidates will occur at a congregational meeting immediately following worship on Jan. 8. Candidate profiles begin on page 5.

### Session Retreat and Stated Meeting:

The annual Session retreat was Dec. 15-16 at Ferncliff. Jerral Johnson requested that he be allowed to step down from the position of Clerk of the Session due to personal circumstances. Jerral's resignation was accepted and Tony Booth was elected by the Session to be the new Clerk of the Session. The Session expressed their gratitude to Jerral for his long and faithful service to the Session and the Kirk.

The retreat provided an opportunity for Session members to worship, pray, and fellowship together under the leadership of Pastor Bill Bailey. The retreat afforded the opportunity for the Session to reflect on the current strengths and weaknesses of the Kirk. Pastor Bailey led a very informative presentation and discussion on "what Presbyterians believe"

### Committee Reports:

**Worship Committee:** Gail Salmen needs to fill the Memorial Services coordinator position. Lucy Allen has served in that position for several years and has done an excellent job. If you are interested in the position, contact Gail Salmen, Worship Moderator.

**Education Committee:** Martha Nielsen shared planning ongoing for education events in 2023.

**Communication Committee:** Bob Morrow indicated a new project is underway to produce an insert for the trifold brochure outlining concisely "what we believe." The new brochure will replace an existing trifold which is a lengthy theological tract produced by the PCUSA in 1991. Also, Bob indicated we are having

## The Clerk's Corner Tony Booth



increasing success in having stories published in the Village Voice and in the Village Digest.

**Building Committee:** Bill Worthley said various projects have been completed including the narthex women's restroom remodel, new lighting in the breezeway, as well as others. The men's restroom painting project and the Hoffius Hall women's restroom remodel will be put on hold so the parlor off the narthex can be refreshed.

**Fellowship Committee:** Ruth Richards said Thanksgiving dinner was a great success. She also said the Christmas Pot-Luck on Dec. 14 was a huge success with nearly 70 people in attendance. Bill Worthley won the "ugly Christmas sweater" contest.

**Missions Committee:** Judith Rosenthal said all Missions funds for 2022 have been allocated or spent.

**Memorial Garden/Grounds:** Priscilla Hayek said various maintenance projects continue throughout the grounds and in the Memorial Garden during the winter months.

**Finance Committee:** The Session reviewed a letter from the Finance Committee intended to go to the congregation regarding the Kirk's financial situation. The Kirk continues to be in a strong financial position owing to the generosity of the congregation and certain funds set up for both designated and general purposes.

Since total pledges for 2023 to date fall short of meeting the current budget for 2023, it is very likely we will have to dip into our reserve funds once again. The letter from Arnie Holtberg, Moderator of the Finance Committee, asks the congregation to consider increasing their pledge to help meet budgetary needs. A motion to send the letter to the congregation was approved.

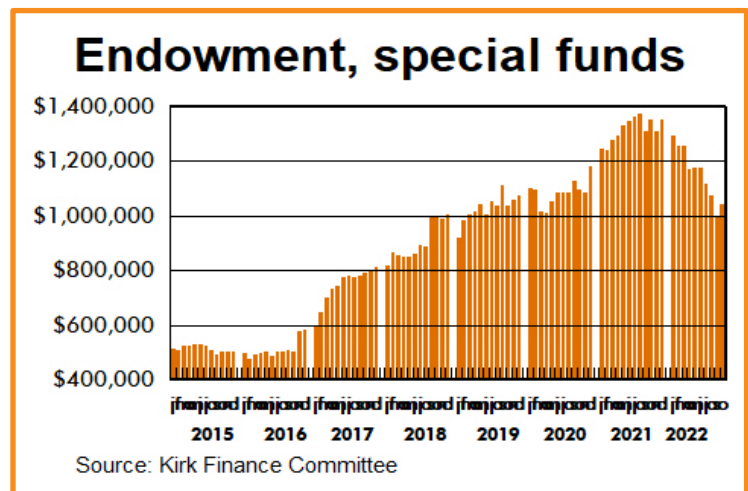
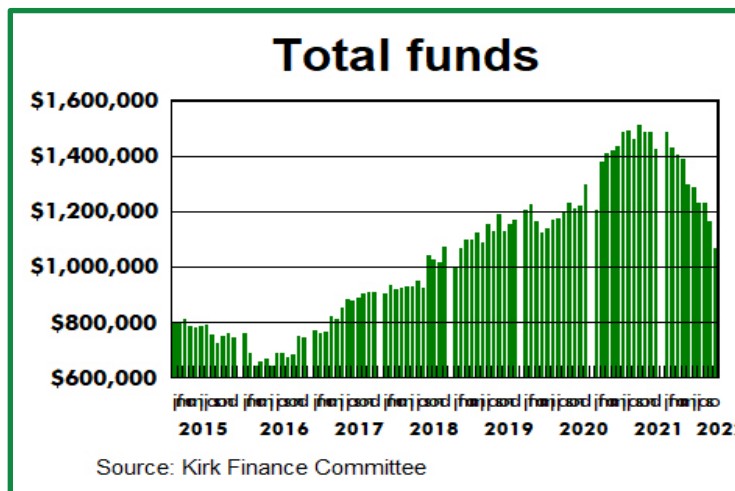
**Member Outreach Committee:** Ben Meek, nominee for Moderator of Member Outreach, indicated his enthusiasm on taking on this important role. He has begun planning to pull together the committee and starting to work asap.

**Administration Committee:** Tony Booth said annual performance reviews for staff have been completed. He thanked all those who volunteered their time in the evaluation process.

# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

## Year to date as of November 30, 2022

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 37,974	\$ 39,995	\$ 417,714	\$ 372,824
Disbursements	\$ 37,974	\$ 29,888	\$ 417,714	\$ 372,237
<b>Building Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,848	\$ 10,190	\$ 53,328	\$ 44,695
Disbursements	\$ 4,848	\$ 2,134	\$ 53,328	\$ 53,570
<b>Total all Funds:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 42,822	\$ 50,185	\$ 471,042	\$ 417,519
Disbursements	\$ 42,822	\$ 32,022	\$ 471,042	\$ 425,807
Checking Balance				\$ 96,204
<b>Special Funds:</b>				
Memorial Fund				\$ 64,216
Luke 12:48 Fund				\$ 249,180
Programs Fund				\$ 32,472
Endowment Fund				\$ 644,646
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 47,827
<b>Total Special Funds (as of Oct 31, 2022)</b>				<b>\$ 1,038,341</b>



## \$319 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of \$319 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.

## 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.



## Candidates named for Session Moderators

**By Lowell Gardner**

Traditionally, the governing body of a Presbyterian Church is made up of “elders.” The word elder is derived from the Greek word *presbuteros*, meaning “old person,” to imply maturity and wisdom. From this we derive the name Presbyterian.

There are two types of elders, the teaching elder and the ruling elder. The names indicate the areas of responsibility and training.

The teaching elder identifies those with the insight and training to lead the church in the understanding and interpretation of the Bible, the Word of God. They are also versed in the history and traditions of Presbyterian beliefs, its doctrines.

Bill Bailey is the Kirk’s teaching elder, as has been Don Trent, Mike Seitz and Sam Pope, in recent memory. Bill is also designated Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Ruling elders are those who guide the church in all other aspects of its mission or ministries. This can cover caring for the sick and elderly, maintaining its properties, hiring and guiding staff, supporting various missionary endeavors, and production of a newsletter, to name a few. At the Kirk, these are individuals nominated and elected from the local membership.

All elders are ordained, that is, set apart by the Spirit of God to do God’s work. The teaching elders are ordained by the Presbytery or “elders,” as it were, of the greater body, in our case, the Presbyterian Church, USA or its local affiliate,

Presbytery of Arkansas. The ruling elders are ordained by the local church.

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines is governed by 12 elders, including Clerk of Session. Each elder is assigned an area of responsibility and are called Moderators of that area. They meet monthly as a body referred to as a Session or in Session.

In this issue you will find articles introducing you to the four candidates for the Session – Ben Meek for Moderator of Member Outreach, Sharon Gardner for Moderator of Finance, Pat Kuntz for Moderator of Fellowship, and Dave Hamilton for Moderator of Administration.

An election for these candidates will be Jan. 8 following Sunday morning worship. The new Moderators will be installed at a later date.

***Lowell Gardner is a former Moderator of the Communication Committee.***

# Ben Meek

## Experienced in church affairs, would head Member Outreach

By Barbara Worthley

Ben Meek is a candidate for Moderator of the Member Outreach Committee.

He was raised by Presbyterian parents who attended Presbytery events, so he understands how the Session works. Over the last 50 years, Ben has served various churches in many different capacities.

“I have been on every committee there is, except maybe PW,” Ben says with a chuckle.

He taught an adult Sunday School class for more than 25 years and has occasionally filled pulpits as a certified lay speaker. He also enjoys writing and has compiled a lengthy personal spiritual biography.

Ben and his wife, Karen, are recent new members of the Kirk, and are actively participating in church activities. They actually joined the choir before joining the church.

Hailing from Wamego, Kan., Ben’s first career was “small-town” banker. But after three decades, he decided to change directions. He went back to school and obtained a master’s degree in Marriage & Family Therapy and opened a counseling practice while staying in banking part time.

The Meeks both enjoy genealogy and have compiled extensive family histories complete with scrapbooks and narratives. Ben’s four grandsons told him he was a good “storyteller” and so he became one publicly. He goes to assisted living facilities and shares historical and Bible stories with the folks.

Ben Meek is a man with many interests and, as mentioned above, he sings in the choir. For 10 years or more, back in Kansas, Ben sang bass with a barbershop quartet known as the Cornerstone Quartet.

***Barbara Worthley is a member of the Communication Committee.***



Ben Meek is a candidate for Moderator of the Member Outreach Committee. (Jamie Federick photo)



**Session candidates**

# **Judith Rosenthal**

## **Veteran of many Kirk roles would head the Mission Committee**

**By Dotty Rector**

The nominee for Mission Committee moderator is Judith (Judy) Rosenthal. Kirk members need no introduction to Judy.

She has been an active member since 1996, when she and her husband Bob joined the Kirk. She wanted a “hands-on” job. So, at a time when the Kirk was very involved in hands on work at Ferncliff, she joined the Mission Committee. She was its secretary for many years, then became moderator for the remaining 1½ years of a retiring moderator.

Judy also served on the Memorial Committee during the time that the Celtic cross and the columbarium were added to the Memorial Garden. Also on her list of activities is her enthusiasm for Presbyterian Women, where she served as secretary for 11 years and was named “Woman of Faith” in 2011.

Community activities include Audubon Society and P.E.O. She also was a volunteer for Village Gates.

Judy was a Baptist when she married Bob. He was a Presbyterian. She is “very much in favor of women having decision making responsibilities in the church.” This is one of the reasons she moved her membership to the Presbyterian Church.

The focus of the Mission Committee is threefold: Feeding families, sheltering homeless, and caring for children. The committee decides how to apportion the mission funds to 30 charities. Most are local, but some are in other areas.

“We do the best we can to help the people who need the help,” Judy said. “The committee is composed of wonderful members. I am looking forward to another three years.”

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



Judith Rosenthal is a candidate to head the Missions Committee. *(Bob Morrow photo)*



## **Session candidates**

# **Pat Kuntz**

## **New head of Fellowship has enjoyed many aspects of life at the Kirk**

**By Judy Corwin**

Pat and Mel Kuntz moved to Arkansas in July 2015. They began attending the Kirk right away and joined the Church in 2016.

Pat was impressed with and joined the Bible Study class, Thursday Discussion Group, Book Club, and the Fellowship events that brought the congregation together for fun and food. She also joined PW Circle 2.

Mel joined the Administration and Finance committees as that was a continuation of the occupation he enjoyed for 50-plus years. Mel grew up on a farm in Illinois, so he also joined the Grounds and Building Committees.

When Jerral Johnson called Pat and asked her to be Moderator of Fellowship, Mel and Pat were surprised. Pat had been Moderator of Education for five years and Mel helped with set-up and clean-up duties at all the events sponsored by the committee. They both thought they would retire from so much to do and travel more.

Jerral suggested they co-chair the committee. So, they accepted. Pat will be on the Session and Mel will do the dishes!

Mel and Pat have three children. Todd lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Denise and her husband, Tom Schmitt, live in Easley, S.C. They have two children: Brayden works in Greenville, S.C., and Brynn attends Furman University in Greenville, S.C.

Erin is married to Tim Packwood and they live in Kingsport, Tenn.

The Kuntz' enjoy traveling to visit friends and family all over the United States. They have visited Alaska, Hawaii, England, many countries in Europe, as well as Canada, Mexico, and Singapore. They traveled to the Holy Land on the tour led by Pastor Bill Bailey.

When not traveling, Pat and Mel enjoy reading, playing games on her Kindle, working in the yard, and boating on the lake.

Pat has already been thinking about supporting fellowship at the Kirk. She said the Fellowship committee will continue sponsoring the Shepherd



Pat Kuntz nominated as Moderator of the Fellowship Committee. *(Bob Morrow photo)*



## **New Moderator**

groups and coffee hour – so keep baking those cookies and signing up for serving them before the Saturday evening service and after the Sunday morning service. She encourages all to consider joining the committee.

She also plans to continue the picnic, chili cook-off, Thanksgiving dinner, and the Christmas party. If there are enough committee members the work can be spread out and each member won't have to help with every event.

According to Pat the first event will be the Lenten Series with the Worship Committee. It is a meaningful time in the Church. Gathering for soup and bread in Hoffius Hall after the service provides a time to visit and reflect.

Watch for dates and times in the newsletter and church bulletin. Call Pat or Mel Kuntz at 501 204-4385 if you would like to be on the committee or are willing to help with one of the events. Come join the fun and experience the spirituality!

*Judy Corwin is a member of the Communication Committee.*



# **Sharon Gardner**

## **Returning to lead Kirk Finance Committee in time of ‘difficult days’**

**By Jamie Federick**

Sharon and Lowell Gardner are familiar faces at the Kirk. They moved to Hot Springs Village in May of 2005 from Minnesota.

They first visited the Kirk because Lowell liked the name. After visiting several other churches, they knew the Kirk was their home because they found Kirk members were so caring and made them feel a part of the church right away. They joined the Kirk in 2008. What a huge blessing this was for our congregation.

Sharon joined the Finance Committee shortly after joining the Kirk. She was installed as Moderator in the class of 2016. Charles Reece was installed as moderator in 2017 and served one year before moving away. Sharon served out his term in 2018-19.

Sharon’s had a unique road in her work career which prepared her for financial leadership.

She began working at a hospital doing patient insurance and transcribing doctors’ patient notes. Ultimately, she did patient care and became a Certified N.A. when her son was young.

Sharon worked her way up in the insurance industry and finally worked for two international brokerage firms which assisted Fortune 500 companies with their claim programs from finding attorneys, rehabilitation, surveillance, doing training, audits and assisting them in cost reduction.

Sharon helped the Kirk with our insurance coverage, most recently dealing with our water-damage claim. Sharon, in short, knows insurance and financial processes inside and out.

To quote Sharon:

“We are living in difficult days. Our church membership from January 2019 has reduced by 74 people and family units has reduced by 54. Our budget is still close to the same as it was in 2019.



Sharon Gardner will be Moderator of the Kirk’s Finance Committee. *(Jamie Federick photo)*



## **New Moderator**

“The challenge will be to do what we can to support our existing structure and make sure we are solvent. I suspect people believe we have lots of money. The reality is a lot of the money in the funds are designated by the giver and not available for sustaining the church.

“I trust our membership to help in this project. The Kirk is a wonderful family, and I am happy to serve.”

We are very fortunate Sharon is willing to take the reins of the Finance Committee in these challenging times.

***Jamie Federick is a member of the Communication Committee.***

# Dave Hamilton

## Former oil company executive brings a lot of experience to the Administrative Comm.

By **Bob Morrow**

Dave Hamilton, otherwise known as Ruth Hamilton's husband, has been nominated to take the reins of the Administration Committee of the Kirk. This is not his "first rodeo" by any means.

Dave's service to this and other Presbyterian congregations has been extensive and he is very well qualified to lead.

Owing to a career with ExxonMobil, the Hamilton's spent considerable time in Houston, where he served as a Deacon, was head of the Personnel Committee and Head of the Board of Deacons at the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. At the time, it had close to 4,500 members.

For 10 years, Dave and Ruth served on a non-profit formed from the Missions Committee where they served as leaders, logisticians, and then translators for one-week medical mission trips to Guatemala as part of Faith in Practice which provides free medical care throughout a large part of the country.

At the Kirk, Dave has served as Elder and Moderator of what was then the Evangelism Committee. He's also served on the Stewardship Committee.

Dave helped organize, start and serve as staff for 12 Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo (now Pilgrimage) weekends. He is quick to point out Ruth was a big part of this effort as well.

He participated in and was president of "Men's Bible Talk," a non-denominational Bible study led by a retired pastor.

And we can't forget to mention he is a bass in the Kirk choir and his service, now in a second term, on the Ferncliff board of directors, where he is on the finance committee.

The list goes on but one important duty he is quick to point out is his proud service as "first husband"



Dave Hamilton will be Moderator of the Kirk's Administrative Committee. (*Jamie Federick photo*)



## New Moderator

during Ruth's tenure as Moderator of the Arkansas Presbytery.

Dave's career took the Hamiltons to many varied locations, including Aruba, New York City, Bogota, Colombia; Houston, as well as other locations.

On a personal note, Dave and Ruth have been married 58 years and have three adopted sons (all living in Texas). His current project is organizing and digitizing thousands of photos of extended family to develop something that can be shared with sons, sisters, nieces, nephews, and others.

**Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.**

# **Tony Booth**

## **Former national Scout leader elected new Clerk of Kirk's Session**

**By Bob Morrow**

At the 2022 annual Session retreat, Tony Booth was elected Clerk of the Session to replace Jerral Johnson. Jerral stepped down due to family and health considerations.

Tony is no stranger to most members of the Kirk. He and Barbara, his wife of 59 years, can be seen front and center in the choir every Sunday. Both have served in worship in many capacities. Tony completed his term as Moderator of the Administration Committee of the Session this month (Class of 2022). This was his first tour of duty as a Ruling Elder.

Tony is a native of Rhode Island and although living in many parts of the country, has retained his distinctive New England accent. He is formerly a Professional Executive with the Boy Scouts of America serving in locations from Minot, N.D., to Houston, Dallas, in Connecticut, New Jersey and even Siberia, Russia. Siberia was his last assignment before retiring to Hot Springs Village in 1995.

Since retirement, Tony worked part time for the PCUSA as a financial campaign consultant (1998-2010) and, with Barbara as a caravan and rally leader for Winnebago Industries (1998-2015).

As a member of the HSV Roadrunner Club, he served as President for two years and organized 12 yearly Habitat for Humanity Builds for the Roadrunners. Tony has also served on the board of directors for Ferncliff for nine years.

And the list goes on and on.

Incidentally, Tony did not grow up Presbyterian. He was active in the Congregational Church as a youth



Tony Booth has been elected as the new Clerk of the Kirk's Session. *(Jamie Federick photo)*

director and met Barbara, who was an Evangelical Reformed Church youth director, at joint church events.

Youth leaders of their respective groups organized a joint meeting and Tony used the occasion to ask Barbara on a date, and, as they say, "the rest is history." Tony and Barbara raised three children, and have six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

We are grateful that Tony, with vast professional and personal experience has agreed to take on the role of Clerk of the Session.

***Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.***



Randy Toney leads the 32-member Kirk choir at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 11. The choir was accompanied by Donna Toney and Fran Stroud. *(Robert Sonnen photos)*

## **Joyous return of Kirk choir's Christmas concert**

**By Susan Morrow**

A much-beloved Christmas tradition resumed last month when the Kirk choir resumed its annual Christmas concert after being canceled by the pandemic. A large and enthusiastic audience savored the energetic celebration of Christmas.

Under the direction of choir director Randy Toney and accompanied by pianist/organist Donna Toney, the 32-member choir sang of the Christmas season to welcome the Christ child's coming.

The music was wide ranging in style and tempo with some traditional carols and more modern harmonies. There were also multiple showstoppers if the response of the audience was any gauge. Program notes provided by Randy Toney enhanced everyone's experience of the music as well.

In addition to a wide variety of choral pieces, there were piano duets performed by Donna Toney and Fran Stroud and a handbell choir featuring Edie Loveday,

Fran Stroud, Linda Hommema, and Susan Morrow.

A wonderful reception followed the concert under the direction of Carol Clark. Both guests and Kirk members lingered to enjoy the festive spirit of this wonderful seasonal tradition.

*Susan Morrow is a member of the Communication Committee.*



Susan Morrow, Linda Hommema, Fran Stroud, and Edie Loveday, led by Randy Toney, formed the Kirk Handbell Choir.



Randy and Donna Toney (center) welcomed choir members and friends to the annual party. Randy opened the feast with a prayer of thanksgiving for the choir and their fellowship. (Jamie Federick photo)

## **Kirk Choir celebrates a successful year at the Toney's annual party**

“It wouldn’t be Christmas without the Toney’s Christmas party” said Rick Federick, choir president. After the hard work preparing for the Christmas concert, partying was called for.

It has become a tradition for Randy and Donna Toney to host the Kirk choir Christmas party at their home. Guests also include choir spouses and significant others.

So, on Dec. 21, this large group gathered for a fun afternoon. First came fellowship around the table. Donna’s special ham sandwiches were augmented with delicacies made by choir members.

Next, Randy teased us with puzzles about mostly old-time carols.

Then, of course, came carol singing. Singing is what choir members most love to do. So, we sang and sang some more.

Randy presented gifts to the behind-the-scenes workers; those who contribute to making the choir run smoothly. Federick was honored. So was Millie Croson,



### **Choir Notes**

***Dotty Rector***

choir librarian, and David Hamilton, “chair-man” of the loft, received accolades. Linda Hommema was thanked for being impresario of the bell choir.

Choir members had previously been asked to write a thank-you note to Randy and Donna. Rick gathered the comments and presented them, along with a gift, to our leaders. We all feel so privileged to be part of this choir, whose excellence is due, in no small part, to our leaders, Randy and Donna.

So, as we wished each other Merry Christmas, we left the party, happy to be part of the Kirk choir family.



Becky Wakefield, a member of the Missions Committee, and Priscilla Hayek at the Kirk's Giving Tree. The Giving Tree gifts this year were delivered to Mountain Pines Head Start children including siblings this year. Gift cards were also given to the Ouachita Children's Center and Vera Lloyd Children's Home. Becky thanks the Kirk congregation for its generous gifts in support of the Kirk's Missions and for the Giving Tree gifts which help make the holidays a happy time for the children in our community. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

## **Lots of fun (and good food) on Pilgrimage**

Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage (ARPP) had another spirit-filled weekend in October!

From Oct. 13 to 16, 10 new participants – plus 30 staff members – descended on Ferncliff Camp in Ferndale to meet up with old friends and to make new ones.

Activities included singing, listening, discussing, doing fun projects, and eating! Lots of eating!

And while fun is the main part of this jam-packed weekend, there is the more serious side. Each day there is a chapel service with communion and quiet time for prayer and reflection.

If you are not familiar with ARPP, also simply called Pilgrimage, we have several members of the Kirk you can ask about it. Patty Barnes and Martha

Nielsen are eager to tell you everything you need to know. And we'd like to welcome our newest attendees Ben and Karen Meek.

ARPP has weekends twice a year, one in April and one in October. The next one will be April 13-16, so mark your calendars!

***Contributed by Patty Barnes, Communication Committee member.***



Kristi Ponder (left) and Patty Barnes join Pat Kuntz for a sumptuous lunch at the PW gathering. (Beverly Schaumburg photos)

## Great food a highlight at PW holiday Gathering

December is a time full of festivities, and the Presbyterian Women had their own festivities at the Gathering on Dec. 12. It began with a worship service filled with Advent songs and a message from the Rev. Bill Bailey entitled "Paying Attention."

Donations for the Christmas outreach project were stocking stuffers to be given to children at the Vera Lloyd home. So many items were collected that the display of handmade stockings were full to overflowing.

We then proceeded to Hoffius Hall to be seated amid beautiful table decorations and the colorful PW Christmas tree. The delicious luncheon was prepared for the ladies by the Greenhorns and served by the members of Circle 2.

For the finale the singing group, Treble in the Village entertained us with several Christmas songs and a beautiful reading of the Christmas story.

All together it was a great and festive way to lead up to Christmas.

*Contributed by Ruth Hamilton, Moderator of Presbyterian Women.*



Anne Bailey (right) joins Emily Faulk and Barbara Booth for the wonderful meal at the PW Gathering.



Members of Treble in the Village (in silver) and Changed 4 Good (in red) gave a spectacular Christmas concert at the Kirk. From left are Kristi Ponder, Patty Nance, Sue Engelbert, Sharon Gardner, Patty Barnes, Angela Villamarette, Tina Kniesler, and Kathy Allison. Ron Kneisler (below) made a credible Santa and passed out candy canes to attendees. (Jamie Federick photos)

## Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas!

Christmas greetings for the season came from musicians from our own Hot Springs Village area and also from our southern neighbors in New Orleans.

The holiday concert on Dec. 17 featured Treble in the Village (Hot Springs Village) and Changed 4 Good Quartet (New Orleans). Both groups are members of the Sweet Adelines International.

The audience was a wonderful mix of family, friends and locals. Dr. Ron Kneisler, Kirk choir member, was master of ceremonies and Santa (photo on right) also made a surprise visit on his trek back to the North Pole.

The beautiful voices captivated the audience with traditional carols *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and the haunting lyrics of *Mary Did You Know?* Louis Armstrong's iconic style was infused into *What a Wonderful World*.

The audience joined in the spirit with an invitation to sing along to *White Christmas* and *Silent Night*.

This musical celebration of the Christmas season was indeed a gift of song. Thank you, Treble in the Village and Changed 4 Good for helping Christmas to come alive!

*Contributed by Susan Morrow, Communication Committee member.*







Choir director Randy Toney led the assembled party goers in Christmas carols and a Christmas carol quiz. *(Photos by Jamie Federick and Robert Sonnen.)*

# Christmas Potluck!



A beautiful potluck spread (far left) proved to be enough for the nearly 70 attendees at the Dec. 14 Christmas potluck sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Ruth Richards (left), Fellowship Committee Moderator, awarded Bill Worthley top honors in the hotly contested ugly Christmas sweater contest. Above, Aggie (aka Judy Corwin) made a special guest appearance at the potluck, entertaining the crowd with her version of *All I don't want for Christmas*.



Pianist Neil Rutman.

## Well-known pianist to perform Feb. 5 at Kirk

The HS/HSV Symphony Guild is delighted to present "Neil Rutman in Concert" as part of our new Classic Series.

Mr. Rutman is a renowned pianist who is Artist-in-Residence at the University of Central Arkansas. He has performed in more than 30 countries and appeared in many outstanding venues in the USA including Carnegie Hall.

He has distinguished himself as a top prize winner in several international competitions and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. Rutman's concert will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 at the Kirk. The concert will be followed by a meet and greet reception. General admission tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on the Guild website, [www.symphonyguild.org](http://www.symphonyguild.org).



## The Mail Corner

### Staff humbled by year-end gifts

Thank you for your generous gifts! It is both exciting and humbling to be recognized in our jobs during this holiday season. Your thoughtfulness and generosity encourage us to do our best.

Sincerely,

*Beverly Schaumburg, Randy and Donna Toney, Chip Johnson, Carol Clark, and Chris Taylor-Wilmoth*

### Many thanks from Marty Volkema

I would like to thank the Rev. Bill Bailey for all his help in getting everything together for the very nice memorial service for Art. The office staff was very helpful as well.

Members of the Memorial reception committee deserve a thank-you for their contribution after the service in Hoffius Hall.

I also want to thank all the people who helped get me to the hospital to visit Art. A very kind thanks for all of your prayers. It made life a little easier for me.

Blessings to all.

*Marty Volkema*

### Recovery for Mike Seitz is in sight

Finally, I write a thank-you to those who have held me faithfully in prayer, written and called encouragements to me and brought in meals.

During this time of recovery, it has had its ups and downs, but I am feeling encouraged that recovery is around the corner.

How grateful I am for your faith which you have shared. The Kirk is a marvelous group of Christians and Marilyn and I are so grateful for you. We look forward to our return.

Grace and Peace,

*Mike and Marilyn Seitz*



**February 12, 2023**  
**Presbyterian**  
**Kirk in the Pines**  
**2:00 P. M.**

**Treble in the Village and**  
**Top of the Rock Chorus**  
**Welcome you to join us for**  
**song and support of the Top**  
**of the Rock Peggy Gram**  
**Scholarship!**



**ALL DONATIONS GO**  
**TO THE**  
**SCHOLARSHIP**



# Happy dates



## Birthdays

January 1	Wayne Copeland	January 12	Debra Cordell	January 25	Ben Meek
January 3	Dorothy Stroupe	January 14	Karen Ammann		Linda Hommema
January 6	Donald Elsenheimer		Darell Fisher	January 31	Marcia Bauer
	Marsha Huff	January 18	Ted Sampsel		Emily Faulk
January 9	Mike Carpenter	January 22	Jerral Johnson		
January 10	Priscilla Hayek	January 25	Halene Strautman		

## Anniversaries

January 3	Dotty and Gary Rector	42 years	January 24	Karen and Ben Meek	53 years
January 23	Jean and Darell Fisher	63 years	January 29	Marty and John Davis	29 years

## A New Year's Wish

Now God be with thee through the year!  
What can I wish thee more than this!  
Who like thy God can send thee bliss,  
Or make thee happy anywhere?

I ask not riches from his hand,  
To lift thy head above the crowd;  
Heaven loves not sordid souls and proud,  
And thou might find it hard to stand.



strife.

Here lies thy bliss, and only here,  
In simple confidence in God.  
He marks thy steps along the road,  
And he in darkest hours is near.

The world wants those of noble cast,  
Heaven make thee great in holy deeds;  
Wher'er his loving Spirit leads,  
Go labor nobly to the last.

God grant thee first a noble life,  
A heart to love the true,  
the wise;  
A soul on wings of faith to rise,  
And soar above the sordid

Go forth and take God for thy friend,  
Forth in his name to dare and do.  
Go serve him with the faithful few,  
And he will love thee to the end.

– *W.M. Hoyle*

*Contributed by Jan Holtberg*

## Kirk will offer CPR training on Jan. 9

Kirk in the Pines will co-sponsor CPR/AED training from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at the Cortez fire station, 110 Cortez Road.

We need at least five participants, with a maximum of 12. The class will be coordinated with Baptist Hospital.

Contact Marcia Bauer, Congregational Care Moderator, at 501 733-6810 to sign up for the class or for answers to any questions.





## 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

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