



Photo: Chuck Moffat. Computerized: Deanna Kincheloe

# A Voice in the Pines

The newsletter of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

Volume XXVI, Issue 1, January 2007

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

### A FRESH START FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH GOD'S HELP

As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, many of us are excited about the possibilities that are before us. Traditionally, the new year is a time to make a fresh start—to let go of past mistakes and try to make positive changes in our lives. Some of us create lists of new year's resolutions. Others simply use the occasion to focus on one area of growth—perhaps to begin an exercise program, or read more, or eat less, or whatever. So many of us feel the constant need to improve ourselves.

Some time ago I read a statistic that indicated that almost 80% of new year's resolutions are broken

within the first week, and of those who break their resolutions, only 40% try again to keep them. Evidently, once we slip back into our old habits, many of us feel too discouraged to try again. Breaking old habits can be very difficult and frustrating.

**As people of faith, we believe that God is at work transforming and shaping our lives.**

As people of faith, we believe that life is more than simply self-improvement. We believe that God is also at work transforming and shaping our lives. We believe that, if God has his way with us, we are continually being

made into Christ's likeness. St. Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." (II Cor.5:17) With God, there is always the possibility of a new beginning. There is forgiveness for our failure and sin. There is the renewing presence of the Spirit. And our Lord calls us to new tasks and mission.

As we look to this new year, let us continue to have confidence in God. God has been faithful in the past and this gives us hope as we face an uncertain future. Come what may, God is with us, drawing us ever toward the Kingdom. God's grace is sufficient for the journey ahead.

### It's official: Saturday Informal Worship Service now one of the Kirk's three services of worship

The Saturday evening Informal Worship Service is well established now, and the Kirk Session is eager to see it blossom even more during the new year. At their November meeting, the Session voted to set it on an equal footing with the two Sunday morning worship services, and all three services are now under the direction of the Worship Committee.

Following God's guidance, Yvonne Jones and her Evangelism Committee gave birth to this service last April, and they will continue to help with many of the activities—welcoming visitors, making announcements, and preparing the visual displays for the music. However, Dave Nottrott will no longer be the pastor leading the service.

Dave has retired from his position as one of our part-time pastoral associates, so his participation in the service will now be strictly voluntary. We are pleased that he will still be leading the singing, assisted by Larry Bradley in his new role as full-time minister of music. The joyful praise will definitely continue.

Reverend Don Trent, the Kirk's only remaining pastoral associate, will be preaching at the informal services, and the congregation is in for a treat. With his gift for storytelling, Don's participation will be a blessing.

If you haven't attended one of the Saturday worship services, we invite you to come and see what all the excitement is about. Bring your

neighbors and friends. Services begin at 5:00 p.m. in Hoffius Hall. Dress is casual, the atmosphere is friendly, and the worship is genuine. God's Spirit is at work!



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## MIDWINTER LECTURE SERIES FEATURES DR. CYNTHIA RIGBY



Get ready for a great experience. Our guest speaker for the Kirk's Midwinter Lecture Series on January 22-23 will be Dr. Cynthia

Rigby, distinguished professor from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas. Her topic will be "Deep and Wide: Living Into God's Amazing Grace."

On March 28, 2006, the *Dallas Morning News* cited her as one of the great theologians of our time. In his article, William McKenzie wrote about twelve contemporary theologians who can "span the gap between church and society. Attention to theology, politics and sociology allows these thinkers to shape the world, not just follow in its wake."

An energetic scholar, Dr. Rigby is the author of more than thirty articles and book chapters. She is currently completing two books, *The Promotion of Social Righteousness* (Witherspoon Press, forthcoming) and *In Fullness the Faith: A Christian Feminist Theology* (Baker Academic, forthcoming). She is the co-editor of *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002) and editor of *Power, Powerlessness, and the Divine: New Inquiries in Bible and Theology* (Scholars Press, 1997). Dr. Rigby is also working on two additional projects, one focused on the doctrines of sin and salvation and the other developing a systematic theology especially for pastors.

Professor Rigby is a sought-after speaker who enjoys lecturing and teaching for academic, church, and denominational events both domes-

atically and internationally. She is the editor of *Insights*, the faculty journal of Austin Seminary. Dr. Rigby is actively engaged with congregations, teaching adult education classes and leading church conferences. Among her most popular series topics includes the one she is presenting at the Kirk, "Deep and Wide: Living Into God's Amazing Grace." Another is "Why Doesn't God Do Something? The Love of God and the Reality of Evil." An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Professor Rigby most recently served as a member of the General Assembly taskforce that authored "The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing," a document that articulates the relevance of Trinitarian doctrine to our lives of faith today.

In 1998 Professor Rigby received the PhD in systematic theology from Princeton Theological Seminary where she was awarded a doctoral fellowship and Wildrich Award for Excellence in Homiletics. She earned her MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1989, and her AB, *magna cum laude*, from Brown University in 1986, where she was received into Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to her appointment to the Austin Seminary faculty in 1995, she was co-instructor and visiting lecturer at Princeton Seminary, Princeton University, and New Brunswick Seminary. She served on the ministerial staff of Community Presbyterian Church of Edison, New Jersey, and Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, New Jersey. She also spent a year as Pastor of Special Ministries with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines in Cagayan d'Oro City, Mindanao.

Dr. Rigby is married to William Greenway, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology at Austin Seminary. They have two children, Alexander, age three, and Jessica, age one.

Members and friends of the Kirk are invited to attend any or all of the morning and afternoon sessions on Monday and Tuesday, January 22 and 23. Meeting times will be 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. A nursery will be provided.

### Gardening:

#### From Alpha to Omega

As spring approaches, it soon will be time to select and plant shrubs and trees. This month's gardening workshop on January 25 will cover the topics of Selection, Planting and Care of Newly Planted Trees, Lighting in the Landscape, and Pruning Shrubs.

Our goal for our monthly gardening workshops is to provide useful information on how to plan, plant and care for one's landscape. Meetings are in Hoffius Hall from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month.

The February class will hear a discussion on butterfly gardening by Ann Hooper, a recognized authority on butterflies and butterfly gardening. Other topics that will be discussed by recognized authorities at future meetings are Raised Beds (Bob Warner) and Pruning Trees (John Slater).

There is no charge for attending the workshops and they are open to anyone who is interested in gardening. Bring a friend with you to the next meeting.

## Larry Bradley's Expanded Role

On December 4, Larry Bradley, the Kirk's part-time Director of Music, began his new role at the Kirk as full-time Minister of Music.

"We're delighted to add Larry to the fulltime staff of the Kirk. He brings a lifetime of experience working in ministry and will greatly enhance our ministry here," says Reverend Bill Bailey. "Larry will be more available for helping with worship, working with committees, assisting with visitation, and planning new programs—such as day trips or special excursions."

At the Session retreat, the elders addressed staffing needs and decided an associate pastor was financially not an option at this time. However, the Session was pleased to have an ordained minister of music already on board. Larry believes his new responsibilities are more in line with his true calling.

"My idea of ministry is servanthood," says Larry. "If I can serve people, then I feel I can be a true minister."

Larry wants to do more to en-

hance the music program. He will work with ensembles and will be available to help with vocal technique. Setting up a computer program to keep better track of the Kirk's music is also on his agenda.

Larry and Dave Nottrott may soon be working together to lead the music at the Saturday evening Informal Worship services. "Dave is doing a great job there, but I will be glad to help him, if I can," says Larry. With Dave on his guitar and Larry on his ukulele, the group would be in for a treat. Larry may also help organize a praise team to lead the singing.

Larry meets each month with the Worship Committee. Serving on the Organist Search Committee and the Organ Committee are two more important responsibilities.

The Kirk is fortunate to have



Larry Bradley in his new office next to Reverend Bailey's.

someone with his expertise and experience to assist us in all these areas. Before coming to the Kirk, Larry served as Minister of Music and Senior Adults at First Baptist Church in Hot Springs. Besides planning the music for all the services, he also led or supervised choirs for all ages. This included the regular Worship Choir, a ten-voice Adult Ensemble, a Young Ladies Ensemble, four children's choirs, a handbell choir and the Jubilee Choir, a special group of senior adults who sang for Sunday morning services periodically. He even organized and led a ukulele band. At First Baptist, he also organized and led fellowship trips.

"I am open to whatever the Kirk Session and Bill would like me to do," says Larry. "I am willing to visit with any committee where I am invited. Right now, I am eager to learn more about all the ministries of the Kirk and find where I can be of help. I am extremely grateful to the Kirk for giving me this opportunity."

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Together We Serve Workday January 11, 9-12, Hoffius Hall


We will share a work day and learn of the ways we serve others already while we explore new service projects. Come join us – cut out layettes (take them home to sew), learn about the prayer shawl and quilt ministry (pick up a pattern), bring items of personal care (razors, shampoo, perfume, regular bar soap, make-up, moisturizers) for Potter's Clay, put together Gift of the Heart health kits, learn about the opportunity to volunteer at the Disaster Assistance Center, help make walker bags, duffel bags for foster kids. Come enjoy a cup of

coffee and a muffin. Share Fellowship as Together We Serve.

**PW Circles to meet January 8**  
Locations and times will be in the January 7 church bulletin. Lesson five, *Perspectives on the Outsider* by Hagar, will be the Bible study.

Claire Rhodes (right), Lay Pastor of West End Presbyterian Church in Arkadelphia, led the Bible Study at the PW Christmas Gathering in December. At the luncheon following her presentation, Verlee Walter led a sing-along of favorite Christmas songs and carols interspersed with humorous and thoughtful readings.



Sun	Mon	Tue
	<p><b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><i>Joe Atkinson</i> <i>Wayne Copeland</i> <i>Dick Olson</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:30 Bible Moderators 9:30 Worship Committee 2:00 Memorial Committee 1:30 Communication Committee 7:00 Education Committee</p>
<p><b>7</b> Holy Communion 8:30 &amp; 10:45 Worship Services 9:40 Adult Focus Group</p> <p><i>Janet Ferris</i></p>	<p><b>8</b> 1:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Sherry Barefield</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> 1:00 Session Meeting</p> <p><i>Cliff Gunsalus</i></p>
<p><b>14</b> 8:30 &amp; 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult Education Class 9:40 Adult Focus Group</p> <p><i>Darell Fisher</i> <i>Ted Veiock</i></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:00 Congregational Care Committee</p> <p><b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:30 Stewardship Committee 9:30 Membership Committee</p> <p><i>Don &amp; Helen Van Stone</i></p>
<p><b>21</b> 8:30 &amp; 10:45 Worship Service 9:30 Adult Education Class 9:40 Adult Focus Group</p> <p><i>Ann Holt</i> <i>Jane McGregor</i></p>	<p><b>22</b> 8:30 Midwinter Lecture Series 9:30 Administration 7:00 Kirk Konnection</p> <p><i>Jerral Johnson</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> 8:30 Midwinter Lecture Series</p> <p><i>Don Turner</i> <i>Eula Mae Veeder</i> <i>Carole Wolever</i></p>
<p><b>28</b> 8:30 &amp; 10:45 Worship Services 9:30 Adult Education Class 9:40 Adult Focus Group</p> <p><i>Shirley Peglar</i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> <i>Lillian Brookes</i> <i>Connie Stewart</i> <i>Tom &amp; Helen Valentine</i></p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>Dorothy Stroupe</i></p> <p><i>Gary &amp; Dotty Rector</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:00 Fellowship Committee 1:00 Evangelism</p> <p><i>Jeanne Lowenthal</i> <i>Martha Parry</i> <i>Tom Valentine</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 Finance Committee</p> <p><i>Ozzie &amp; Lillian Brookes</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:00 Kirk Choir 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p> <p><i>Jackie Chakoian</i> <i>Don Elsenheimer</i></p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 Bible Study 2:00 Forum Committee 7:00 Shepherd Gr. #11 7:00 SOMA</p> <p><i>Diane Malottki</i></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9-12 PW Workshop 3:00 Mission Committee</p> <p><i>Janet Durbin</i></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><i>Bob Burt</i> <i>Bob Geissler</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:00 Kirk Choir 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p> <p><i>Lewis Olmstead</i></p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00 Bible Study</p> <p><i>Jane Harless</i> <i>Chuck Moffatt</i> <i>Dick &amp; Marilyn Olson</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>2:00 Planning &amp; Coordinating Committee</p> <p><i>Jean Brown</i></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:30 Men's Association</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:00 Kirk Choir 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p> <p><i>Betty Reece</i></p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 Bible Study</p> <p><i>Phyllis Miller</i> <i>Shirley Piontek</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>2:00 Gardening Workshop</p> <p><i>Halene Strautman</i> <i>Jimmy &amp; Barbara Harris</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:00 Red Cross Training</p> <p><i>Lloyd Swan</i> <i>Art &amp; Marty Volkema</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:00 Kirk Choir 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p> <p><i>Duane Claveau</i> <i>Betty Jo Judy</i></p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00 Bible Study</p> <p><i>Emily Faulk</i> <i>Gayle &amp; Edwina Oglesby</i> <i>Don &amp; Marilyn Turner</i></p>			

**CLERK'S CORNER**

I appreciate the opportunity you provided for me to work with Bill and our Session over the next three years. Your Elder Class of 2009 is now seated on the Session which met on December 12, 2006.

The following business was conducted

- A motion passed approving the transfer of Lee and Polly Kaye Stafford to the Woodlands Presbyterian Church.
- Sylvia Tate was elected commissioner to the February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting at University of the Ozarks.
- A motion passed designating Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> as Bring a Friend Weekend.
- We passed a motion to keep our raised bed garden as a permanent fixture and plant butterfly plants and other seasonal flora.
- A motion passed to increase the charge for the All Kirk Dinner to \$12.00 per person.

- A motion passed to serve Communion in 2007 on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month and on Maundy Thursday.
- We passed a motion to hire Rev. Don Trent as pastoral associate for 2007 to serve approximately sixteen hours per week. Don will answer to the Session.
- We will hire a weekend sexton at a salary not to exceed \$3,900 per year.
- A motion passed electing Spencer Johnson as Moderator of our Audit Committee to audit our 2006 finances.
- A motion passed to move the responsibility for our Kirk pictorial directory from the Communication Committee to the Membership Committee.

For your information, the sound system in the lower level has been upgraded and hearing aids have been added. All is compatible with the sanctuary system.

We also renewed our church insur-

ance for 2007 with Church Mutual at a premium reduction of \$1,181.00 for a total of \$7,983.00.

CHURCH DEATH: Bill Reace died on November 23, 2006. Please be in prayer for Bill's family.

TRANSFERS: Lee and Polly Kaye Stafford to the Woodlands Presbyterian Church.

CHURCH STATISTICS as of December 12, 2006. Members 545 Family Units 338

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Month of November  
 General Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$5,667  
 Building Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$1,438  
 Year to Date  
 General Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$66,749  
 Building Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$7,092

I sincerely hope all of your New Year's resolutions are kept and you have a joyous New Year.

*God Bless each of you,  
 Bob Rosenthal*

**Village Men's Chorus entertains Men's Association**



The Village Men's Chorus presented a musical program at the Men's Association breakfast on December 15. The Kirk men meet the third Friday of every month for coffee, doughnuts and to hear an interesting speaker. This month's meeting is on January 19. Come join the fun.

**Thanksgiving at the Kirk**



John Dykstra carves one of the turkeys that was served to nearly 150 people at the Kirk this Thanksgiving. The Fellowship Committee gratefully thanks everyone who helped decorate, cook and serve, with a special thanks to Chair Joyce Leeming.

## STEWARDSHIP: FAITH IN ACTION

I would like to share part of a poem with you which was written by Pastor Jim Tweedie. This applies to the Kirk as well as Mililani Presbyterian, where we attended in Honolulu.

We must be always building;  
not just with stone or steel.  
Washed in living water;  
fed by the living meal.  
Sharing our tithes and talents;  
standing with those God  
sends.  
Serving the Lord as servants;  
serving the Lord as friends.

Stewardship is on going throughout the year. Please remember and enjoy the New Year.

*June Moore*  
Stewardship Moderator

## New Year, New Books

A couple of books from *Publishers Weekly's* list of the year's best books on religion have been purchased for the Kirk library.

*Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* by Diana Butler Bass has received excellent reviews both in *Presbyterian Today* and the *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Many in our congregation have read, and read again, Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Rabbi Kushner's new book is *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*.

The third purchase, *Angels in Africa: Portraits of Seven Extraordinary Women*, highlights seven women who have made a difference. Reviewers have stated that "the text is inspiring and the photography shows the beauty in the strength of character of these women."

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### CPR Training Scheduled

A certification course in C.P.R., the Heimlich Maneuver and operation of our heart defibrillator (A.E.D.) is scheduled for Friday, January 26 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 in the Conference Room.

Certification requires four and a half hours of training, a demonstration of skills and a short written test, and must be renewed yearly. It is open to first-time takers, plus those who wish to be recertified.

Cost for the training is \$30. For reservations, call the church office at 922-1333.

### Useful Items Available

Two members of the Kirk have things that might be of use to you or to someone you know. Darlene Spiller has a 12-foot ramp for wheelchair use which she will be happy to give to anyone who will call her at 922-3084. However, you must be able to come to her home and transport it.

Vern Blattner has a Hoveround Wheelchair that he will loan to anyone needing it temporarily. Call Vern at 922-2781.

## ALL KIRK DINNER

FEBRUARY 5, 5:30 P.M.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH HALL

Choice of Chicken Delight or  
Roast Pork Tenderloin  
\$12 each

Dancing to the Big Band

Join us for an evening of  
fellowship, fine food and  
great entertainment.

*Sign up after worship on  
January 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21*

## EVANGELISM

### Bring a friend to church on Sunday, February 25

The Evangelism Committee is gearing up for another special year in the life of the Kirk. We are planning to have a Bring a Friend Sunday on February 25 and want you to help us out by inviting your friends and neighbors who do not have a church home to come to church with you that day. Last year we had 26 visitors. I believe you can beat that this year. You will hear more about this in the mail, but start making your list. We will have a special reception after both services that day.

Under our gardening ministry, we have set our Annual Plant Sale for April 14 at Cortez Pavilion. Please mark that date on your calendar and make plans to attend. Kirk members who have extra plants may share their bounty by donating plants for our sale. The proceeds will be used for children's needs in Arkansas. Also, if you have extra baskets or four-inch containers that you don't need, please notify Jerral Johnson or Bob Mayfield. Also, watch the *Village Voice* for the monthly topics of discussion. You can attend even if you are not a regular member.

### New Topic for Sunday class

On Sunday, January 14, the Sunday morning Bible and theology study group will begin a new book and 12-week program. The themes for these sessions will be "What is the Church?" and "Who is Humanity?" Anyone who enjoys a lively discussion on matters of faith is invited to join. Meetings are at 9:30 a.m. between services. Contact Sally Fink (922-9622) or Dick Massey (922-2385) for further information.

**MISSION****Assistance Center Needs Assistance**

As many of you are aware, the new Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff is up and running. The latest communication from Ferncliff Director David Gill tells us they have hundreds of boxes of kits that need to be opened, checked and reboxed. One shipment has been received in which kits were put together incorrectly so need to be undone and repacked. The agencies dispensing these kits have strict guidelines to be followed for the five different types of kits. The center also has raw materials to make 1,000 health kits.

I am working with David to set up an on-going volunteer program at the Kirk. This disaster aid goes to all kinds of people all over the world through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Services. Our recruiting is not restricted to Kirk members. We need

any volunteers for any length of time, but we would particularly like to find some people who would work on a regular basis (weekly, twice a month or whatever). They could gradually learn the routine, work with little or no supervision, then eventually direct other occasional volunteers. There is no paid employee dedicated to the center. Both men and women are welcome. You might get your golf or tennis friends or your Shepherd Group involved. Our plan is to start this effort in late January and go through May. At that time, we will reevaluate the program and see what adjustments might need to be made. Please give this opportunity some thought and prayer. If you have an interest in this ministry, please call me.

*Ro Easter*  
922-3993

**Meals on Wheels Needs Help**

Each March the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines is responsible for providing volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Village. We need two people for each weekday. You can volunteer as a couple or we will match you up with a partner. We also need substitutes who are available on an as-needed basis.

Meals on Wheels provides hot cooked meals to homebound seniors. Ready-to-Serve meals and delivery directions are picked up at McAuley Center for you to deliver in the Village. If you can help, call Dottie Isaacson at 922-6419.

**MISSION DOLLARS**

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollars campaign. We collected a record \$1,111 the first three weeks of December. The money goes to fund our nine Presbyterian agencies.

**Food Basket**

This month we are collecting for Potter's Clay. They need peanut butter and jelly; canned chicken, meat and fish; soups, stews and chili; pasta and pasta sauces; hamburger and tuna helpers; canned and dried milk, canned fruits and juices; cold and hot cereal; and coffee and tea. Monetary gifts are also welcome. Please use the pew envelopes marked Food Basket.

**Mission at work**

I WOULD LIKE to share with you an experience that happened in December. I was in Fred's buying blankets for Jackson House and had 14 or 15 blankets piled up at the check-out counter. The woman in front of me asked why I was buying so many blankets. I told her I was from Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, and that I was buying the blankets for Jackson House. With that, she offered to pay for two of them. I told her that was not necessary but she said she wanted to, so I said, Okay. Afterward, I asked her name and she said that wasn't important, she was glad to help. Now that is the spirit of Christmas!

*Gerald Wood*  
Mission Committee Moderator

**In Memoriam**  
**William Reace**

Entered the Church Triumphant  
November 23, 2006

**In Sympathy**

Dorothy Kiefer, sister-in-law of **Don Elsenheimer**  
December 1, 2006

Mildred Nottrott, mother of **Dave Nottrott**  
December 8, 2006



**MARTIN**  
**LUTHER**  
**KING, JR.**  
**- DAY -**

The Church  
Office  
will be closed  
**Monday,**  
**January 15**  
for  
Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Day

**WORSHIP*****It takes many people to make the vehicle run***

As the new year begins I have been reflecting on this past year and thinking of this next term, serving as Moderator of the Worship Committee. Coming on board as a replacement in the middle of a term was difficult, but possible because of the great committee that was already in place. The members of this committee are committed and dedicated to serving our congregation with love and enthusiasm.

I won't name anyone in particular, but there are those other than committee members who play an integral part in worship planning. There is someone who contacts Elders to

serve Communion, bakes bread each and every month to be served for Communion, plans and puts together the banners that grace our sanctuary, and calls to schedule ushers and greeters. These "unsung workers" diligently carry out their duties so that our worship proceeds in a meaningful manner.

I take my hat off, not only to the committee members, but also to these unsung workers. There is no way that I, as moderator, could manage without all of these willing hands. I love corporate worship and am more than happy to be a part of the Worship

Committee.

When I came on board I shared with the committee my thoughts on the importance of worship in providing a time and place for our church family to encounter the Holy. All of the work that we do can be compared to the workings of a vehicle. Most of us get into a car, turn the key, step on the gas and go — not thinking about what it takes to make the vehicle

run. We just expect it to happen. In the same way most people come to worship and never think about what it takes to provide this great opportunity. The worship service is one vehicle for making an encounter with God possible. And we are part of that process.

My prayer is that 2007 will prove to be a meaningful year in our congregation. We have a dedicated, hardworking Session and a dedicated, enthusiastic Pastor to lead us on this spiritual venture in the new year. May we be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in finding new ways to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As His disciples, there is no limit to what can be done in Christ's name.

"[We] can do all things through Him who strengthens [us]."

—Philippians 4:13

*Peace,  
Sylvia Tate  
Moderator*

**Most people come to worship and never think about what it takes to provide this great opportunity.**

***A Note of Thanks***

EUNICE AND I would like to thank all who provided food and prayers for her during her hospital stay and recovery. She still is getting nursing care at home but is getting better. We are blessed to have such a loving church family.

*John Wood*

DICK AND I are slowly settling into our home here in Benton. The pile of boxes is getting smaller, and the kitchen is functioning — a very important fact as far as Dick is concerned! We would like to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl and plaque. They are a constant reminder of our special time spent with you there at the Kirk. We miss you, but hope to see you as we visit back in the Village.

*With love,  
Madelyn Knott*

THANK YOU VERY much for the booklet "Celebrating 25 Years" — It is a beautiful history. My husband, Blaine, (died May 2001) and I came to the Village in 1990 and came to the Church very soon. Blaine enjoyed singing in the choir and I enjoyed listening to the choir and services. I shall never forget the support the church members gave me after Blaine's death and again after I took a bad fall and spent time in the hospital — which forced me to move up here where my brother and his wife live. Though I have completely recovered and am in good health — celebrated a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in September — I do miss my many good friends there and wish I could be there too.

*Sincerely,  
Dorothy Currence*

**A VOICE IN THE PINES**  
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Sallie Huss	Secretary
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Beverly Schaumburg	Financial Secretary
Cole Goodman	Sexton

#### *Please pray for these people we know who are In Harm's Way*

**Matt Rhees**, grandson of Elizabeth & Verland DeVon, Awaiting deployment, U.S. Army  
**Dr. Sean Mullendore**, grandson of Connie & George Green, Standby, U.S. Air Force  
**Capt. Ben Brown**, grandson of Vic Brown, England, U.S. Air Force  
**Paul Glenn Head**, nephew of Alice Smith, Ft. Hood, TX, U.S. Army  
**David Lindholm**, grandson of George & Marianne Lindholm, Langlin AFB, U.S. Air Force  
**Gregory Lindholm**, nephew of George & Marianne Lindholm, Groton, CT, U.S. Navy  
**Capt. Shane Rosenthal**, grandnephew of Bob & Bev Kirchhoff, Iraq, U.S. Marine Corps  
**Lt. David Hessert**, grandson of Ann Hessert, Iraq, U.S. Marine Corps  
**Gabriel Hodgson**, friend of Jene Waite, Afghanistan, U.S. Air Force  
**PFC Adam Sandifer**, grandson-in-law of Tom & Ethelee Beverly, Kuwait  
**Lt. Zachary Ritter**, grandson of Roger & Jeanne Kleinschmidt, Afghanistan, U.S. Marine Corps  
**Christopher Kotz**, nephew of Bob & Judy Corwin, Iraq, 14th Marine Regiment  
**LCDR Neal Nottrott**, son of David and Theresa Nottrott, Djibouti, Africa, US Navy  
**LCpl. Jordan Kilpatrick**, grandson of Bill & Pat McCluskey, Iraq, U.S. Marine Corps  
**Maj. Robert Downey**, grandson of Bob & Fran Burr, Afghanistan, U.S. Marine Corps  
**Sgt. Jason Davis**, step-son of Cole Goodman, 875th Eng. Bat., Iraq, Arkansas National Guard  
**James W. Carpenter**, grandson of Jim & Ruth Carpenter, Groton, CT, Navy

*Please help us keep this list up to date by calling Wilma Reed at 922-3498 or the church office.*