

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXIV, Issue 1, January, 2010

The Pastor's Corner

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

Of course, most of us know what happens to “good intentions.”

A few years back, I read that almost 80 percent of New Year resolutions are broken within the first week, and of those who break their resolutions, only 40 percent try again to keep them. Because breaking old habits can be very difficult and frustrating, sometimes we become too discouraged to try again.

As people of faith, we believe life is more than simply self-improvement. We believe 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. More than self-help, there is God's promise of forgiveness and renewal.

There is the renewing presence of the Spirit, so each day provides the possibility of a new beginning.

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

Come what may, God is with us, drawing us ever toward the Kingdom. God's grace will be sufficient for the year ahead and we need not be afraid.

Peace,
Bill Bailey



**Sunday
Worship Service
10 a.m.**

**Sunday Discussion Group
8:45 a.m.**

**Sunday Focus Group
9 a.m.**

**Saturday
Informal Service
5 p.m. - Hoffius Hall**

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Clerk's Corner

It is with regret that Ray Beal (Memorial Committee), Theresa Nottrott (Membership), Sally Fink, (Education), Sylvia Tate (Worship) and Bob Rosenthal (Clerk of Session) leave the Session as active elders.

Fortunately their positions have been filled by some excellent individuals: Gail Salmen, Memorial; Carol Clark, Membership; Lon Hardin, Worship and Judy Pogemiller, Education. They have been active in the church and had expertise in related areas before coming to the Kirk.

Another group of the congregation to be congratulated is the Nominating Committee for their effort in selecting and encouraging the new Session members.

Interim Search Committee: This committee was established to find an interim replacement for Larry Bradley. Committee members were Jerral Johnson (chairperson), Madelyn Young, Lon Hardin, Sylvia Tate and Darell Fisher. After consideration, Pat Hightower was presented to the Session as the interim Director of Music. The Session approved Pat. We are very fortunate to have someone with her qualifications available to quickly step in and take over this very important part of our worship service.

Donations for Land Purchase: A total of \$28,115 has been donated by members of the congregation for the purchase of the property from Cooper. This is an excellent start on covering the cost of the land.

Deaths within the church family: Jimmy Harris, Nov. 12, 2009; Lew Olmstead, Nov. 28, 2009 and Karen Patty, Nov. 29, 2009. Let us please remember their families in our prayers.

Request for Transfer: The Session approved Eunice and John Wood's request to have their membership transferred to Christ of the Hills Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village. We wish John and Eunice well as they move to their new church home.

All-Kirk Dinner: The Fellowship Committee is busy preparing for the All-Kirk Dinner, to be Feb. 1. Mark your calendar now to attend.

Church Statistics as of Dec. 8, 2009: Members 486 Families 309

Treasurer's Report for November 2009:

General Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$6,207.

Building Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$17,284.

God be with each of you during this new year.

— Jerral Johnson,
Clerk of Session

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Faith & Film — Jan. 13

Men's Association — Jan. 15

Gardening — Jan. 28

All-Kirk Dinner — Feb. 1

Midwinter Lectures — Feb. 10, 11

Bible Study — Every Wednesday

Choir practice — *Every Wednesday*

Handbell ringers practice — Every Wednesday

Christian Practices — Every Thursday

Men's Association

Villager state trooper to speak

Trooper Kelly Watkins made a personal commitment to public service long ago and to this day has been true to that commitment.

He was recently honored by the Arkansas State Police with an official commendation for extraordinary success in educating and counseling area school children.

Watkins, who has lived in Hot Springs Village nine years with his wife, Tina, graduated from Hot Springs High School and attended National Park Community College. In 1981, he went to work for the Arkansas Crime Lab and developed a love for law enforcement. From 1982 to 1985 he worked for the Pulaski County Sheriff's Department as both an investigator and deputy.

In 1985, Watkins began his career with the Arkansas State Police and is assigned to Troop K, which is headquartered near National Park CC in Hot Springs. Troop K services seven counties in west central Arkansas.

Watkins will address the Men's Association at their 7:30 a.m. meeting, Jan. 15 in Hoffius Hall.

Don't miss the Midwinter Lectures

February 10, 11

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Hoffius Hall

featuring

“Grace on the Silver Screen”

by

**Dr. Ed McNulty,
renowned author, teacher and
producer for television, radio and
film**

*Sign up for seating reservation the weekends of
Jan. 22, 23 and 30, 31
or Feb. 6, 7
(Lunch is “on your own.”)*

Lenten services begin Feb. 17: Soup and bread lunch to follow

All who worship at the 11 a.m. service each Wednesday during the six weeks of Lent are invited to a simple soup and bread lunch at 11:30 in Hoffius Hall.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the bulletins at Saturday and Sunday worship services asking for the congregation to provide soup or bread for one or more of the luncheons.

Return the sheet by placing it in the offering plate or taking it to the Kirk office.

You may also call the church office to volunteer.

All-Kirk Dinner

February 1

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

Seating — 5:30 p.m.

Dinner by Home Plate — 6 p.m.

Menu:

**Chicken Breast Florentine with
Champagne Cream Sauce**

or

**Sirloin Beef Tips with
Sour Cream Gravy**

**Spinach Salad, Scalloped Potatoes,
Green Beans Almandine, Rolls
Carrot Cake or Turtle Cheese Cake.**

Water, Coffee

\$12 each

**Listening and dancing music by
the Hot Springs Village Big Band**

Reservation sign up dates:

**Jan. 9, 10; Jan. 16, 17 and Jan. 23,24,
or telephone the church office, 922-1333**

FOCUS



When your sight begins to change

In her book, *Dancing in the Dark*, Frances Neer tells about her experience with vision loss:

“Most of the time, Mother Nature is kind to us and changing sight is a very slow process. But sometimes change comes down on us swiftly and irrevocably. The following is what happened to me. I traveled to a festival in Oregon and spent a few days there with a group of people to go to the theater. Two things happened. I discovered I couldn’t see the stage anymore. Even worse, I found I wasn’t able to distinguish the faces of my acquaintances in the group. So I found myself retreating from them. They simply thought I was a quiet shy person. But I wasn’t. I was suffering great distress because I thought I could no longer be the social person I had once been.

“After a while, I thought, the devil with being hopeless! I’m still breathing and as long as I’m breathing I may as well do what I can. And at that point that’s what I did. I could go and learn how to deal with myself and with other who have vision loss.”

Is it time for you to take a serious look at yourself and realize your vision is slipping?

Do you need help reading your bills, paying for groceries by counting out your own money, or reading directions on how to take your medicine?

If you would like to learn new ways to deal with your vision loss, FOCUS can help.

Registrations for FOCUS classes are now being accepted.

The classes will be Jan. 18 through Feb. 26. We will meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday and Friday each week at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. Transportation will be provided if needed.

For more information or to register, call Nancy Otto at 922-9395.

— Nancy Otto

February newsletter via Internet

Next month members with Internet will be asked to go to the Kirk website for their newsletter. Labeled copies for those **without** Internet will be available for pick up at church services. Homebound will receive their copy by mail. We’ll use savings in lower production costs and postage for other missions. Please be sure the office has your correct email address and **check your email** the last week each month. Call 922-1333 if you have difficulty accessing the website. Volunteer computer helpers will assist you with easy “how-to” instructions.

FAITH

and

FILM

The Trip to Bountiful

The Trip to Bountiful is set in 1947 in the nonexistent Texas town of Bountiful. Carrie Watts, an elderly woman played by Geraldine Page, wants to return to the small town where she grew up but is always stopped by her loathsome son and her daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Watts is determined to outwit her bossy daughter-in-law and sets out to catch a train, only to find trains no longer go to Bountiful.

A bus takes her near Bountiful. On the journey, she befriends a young woman and reminisces about her younger years and grieves for her lost relatives.

Meanwhile, the son and daughter-in-law have police looking for Mrs. Watts. When a policeman finds her, he is persuaded by the unbeaten Mrs. Watts to drive her on to Bountiful. The town is deserted. The few remaining houses are in ruins. This does not matter to Mrs. Watts. She sees Bountiful as she remembers it and is happy and at peace with herself.

This film examines the difficult emotions in aging without becoming too maudlin.

The Trip to Bountiful will be reviewed at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 13, in Hoffius Hall. Pastor Bill Bailey will facilitate the discussion.

Those attending should watch the movie beforehand. Copies are available in the Kirk Library. Please return them quickly so others may check them out.

— Diane Roberts

Kirk volunteers needed in March to deliver Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provide hot cooked meals to homebound seniors. Each March 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. Volunteer as a couple or we can match you up with a partner.

We also need substitutes on an as-needed basis.

Ready-to-serve meals and delivery directions are picked up at McAuley Center at 9:30 a.m. All deliveries are in the Village. If you can help, please call Vianne Huff at 922-4624.

ESP — Every Single Person

January is the month for a new start.

Our ESP group is for Every Single Person living alone, no matter if you are a man or a woman — single, widowed or divorced.

It is a "buddy system" for people who just want the security of being in touch with someone on a daily basis. This is usually accomplished by a daily telephone call to your "buddy" to verify everything is all right. It can be someone you contact who is also a church member or even a neighbor or friend.

Accidents happen in the home. If a buddy does not receive an answer at the home, we have a contact procedure agreed upon by your buddy to make sure no "crisis" happened in the last 24 hours. Slips on driveways, kitchen floors, etc., happen and this prevents lost time in the case of an emergency.

The ESP program has worked well for many years. If your family situation has changed and you'd like more information, call Judy Corwin at 922-6750.

Those already in the program are asked to call Judy and update your record regarding doctors, hospitals, or let her know if you are no longer participating in the ESP program.

ATTENTION HANDBELL RINGERS!

Rehearsals begin at 2 p.m., Jan. 20
for the spring and Lenten season

COME ONE! COME ALL!

New Territory

by the Christian Friendship Program

In an interview Kirk member Roberta Shock talked about planning for her future.

by Dotty Rector

Q: When did you start thinking about where you would spend your "golden years?"

A: After my husband Jess' memorial service my sons started asking what I would like to do. That initiated my becoming more serious about my future. When I visited my oldest son in Illinois, he took me out for a ride and showed me various condos and areas I might like to live in. I said, "What are you doing? Are you trying to move me right away?"

"My plan is kind of my security blanket."

— Roberta Shock

He said, "No, but I'm the one who will have to make arrangements for where you're going if you should have a stroke in Arkansas. I want to know what you want, so I can do what you would want."

Q: Was it hard to work on this decision?

A: Not particularly, but it was something I didn't really want to do. I am practical enough to know I had to come up with a plan. I kind of operate that way. When there's a problem I think of what the worst thing would be and what would I do about it. Now, maybe when that happened I might not do the plan, but I felt secure in having a "plan." It's kind of my security blanket.

Q: What factors played into your decision?

A: The sons' possibility of transfer and the affordability. I knew I could afford to live in Illinois. I will put it off as long as I can because I can live here far cheaper.

Q: So, your consideration didn't include staying here in a facility?

A: I don't feel it is fair to your family to drag them here every month to see how you're doing. They have families. They have lives. I'm following my mother's example. We asked her to come live with us and she said, "No house is big enough for

Continued on page 10

Choir Notes

A new year and an invitation

Haven't you always wanted to sing in a choir? Have you intended to join the Kirk Choir and revive those "rusty pipes?" There are many in the congregation who should be sharing God-given vocal talent praising Him from the choir loft on Sunday mornings!

Looking at the Kirk choir members, you'll see most of us with white hair (or none); many who take a little longer to rise; those who would rather be on the golf course or playing bridge at rehearsal time, and those who have other reasons or excuses, but still make singing in the choir a priority.

This is a "personal invitation" to join *your* Kirk choir and experience the joy of making music with us.

We work hard, but have fun and fellowship as we rehearse so we may contribute to the Sunday morning service. Singing for His glory is a rewarding worship experience for us.

If you read music, but don't wish to sing in the choir, why not join the Handbell Ringers? The Kirk Ringers rehearse at 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

By listening carefully to the words of our Introits, Anthems and Benediction Responses, you'll realize they were chosen for a reason.

First Sunday of the New Year is before Epiphany, so the Quartet's anthem is *Goin' to Bethlehem*, but since it is a new year, the Introit is *Another Year is Dawning*. Other Sundays in January emphasize Gifts of the Spirit, getting along together, and striving for peace in the world.

Many choir members are not soloists, but enjoy singing in a small group, in addition to the Chancel Choir. Ready to add to our Sunday morning worship are the Mixed Quartet, Ladies Quartet and Ladies Sextet. A Male Octet and Ladies Octet are being started in the new year.

Reports from Larry and Toni Bradley are encouraging. Thank you for your support as I serve as Interim Music Director. I deeply appreciate all your positive comments, and will continue to give my "Best for the Master."

Come join us – Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

--Pat Hightower



Presbyterian Women



Singing as a quartet were (l-r) Sharon Gardner, Sylvia Tate, Fran Stroud and Carol Gardner

PW celebrates in harmony

Kirk Presbyterian Women enjoyed another thought-provoking Bible lesson on Dec. 14, the fourth in this year's series about Joshua, led by Pastor Bill Bailey.

Following Bill's presentation, a delicious Christmas luncheon, prepared by the Greenhorns, was served in festively decorated Hoffius Hall. After the meal, the women received another special treat.

Sharon Gardner, Sylvia Tate, Fran Stroud and Carol Gardner entertained the crowd as they blended their beautiful voices in a number of holiday songs. They also led all the women in a delightful four-part round in which everyone could harmonize.

Sylvia Tate played her autoharp and sang an original song she created when her children were small. The program ended on another lovely note.

The quartet presented a new song, then sang it as a counter-melody while Pat Hightower led everyone in *Silent Night*. More amazing harmony filled the room—a beautiful reminder of the harmony God desires among all his children during this Season of Love.

— Madelyn Young

MISSION DOLLARS

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollars campaign. \$902. was collected for the month of November, 2009.

In the Spotlight . . .

Congregational Care Committee



Congregation Care members are (front, l-r) Sue Thayer, Marilyn Johnson, Janie Smith, Dorothy Stroupe, Bev Omstead, Martha Fast, moderator; Carol Clark, Jim Thayer and center row, l-r) Ed Holt, Anne Holt, , Marilyn Turner, Adair Atkinson, Mary Ann Reynolds, Gary Clark, Jerral Johnson; Rear, Lowell Gardner, Don Trent and Judy Corwin. Not pictured, Rhonie Zymboly. (Bruce McIntosh photo)

The Congregational Care Committee is truly the heartbeat of the Kirk. Almost every day there is a serious concern, an emergency or special prayer care requests. Because of the number of Kirk senior members, the need for help or assistance varies.

Committee members arrange rides for doctor appointments, classes and church services. They check on ill patients residing at home, those hospitalized, provide relief to caregivers, find a handyman to help with small household jobs and lend comfort to grieving family members. Other services include:

A prayer tree for members and families is available on request.

Prayer shawls made by members are dedicated during church service and given to members hospitalized, homebound, in declining health or moving from the Village.

Ted Smith makes CD's of Sunday services upon request.

An ESP (Every Single Person) buddy system was established recently so those who live alone receive a daily telephone call.

Greenhorns prepare meals once a month for needy or shut-in members. Volunteer drivers deliver the meals to the homes.

Retired professionals volunteer individual service to homebound members by sharing their knowledge

of money management and health advice.

FOCUS for visually impaired, headed by Nancy Otto, is provided at the Kirk twice a week for six weeks. The next class begins Jan. 18.

Christian Friends, guided by Janie Smith, pairs trained caregivers with people in need and for support.

A **Grief Support Class** begins in January for those who have recently lost spouses or loved ones. Sylvia Tate will facilitate. Follow-ups are made with a personal note on the anniversary of the death. Cards are sent quarterly. A grief booklet is provided.

Concerns and loving care are the backbone of any congregation and the Kirk's Congregational Care committee surely attempts to cover our needs on all bases for the church. Our special thanks and appreciation to this dedicated committee.

Gardening ...

from Alpha to Omega

Julie Tharp will discuss "Critters found in the home landscape" at the first 2010 meeting for gardeners from 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in Hof-fius Hall.

Julie, a certified park interpreter at Lake Catherine State Park since 2006, is quite knowledgeable about the critters you may find among your plants, shrubs and flowerbeds.

She grew up in the country and developed an interest in wildlife at an early age. Her broad experience includes working as a wildlife rehabilitator, an interpreter with the National Park Service, assisting DeGray with their Eagles Weekend, and researching the Civilian Conservation Corps influence in Lake Catherine State Park.

Gardeners of all levels from beginners to those seeking certification as Master Gardener are invited to "Gardening ... From Alpha to Omega" the fourth Thursday each month at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

FOOD BASKET

During the month of December the Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for Jackson House. For those who wish to make a monetary gift there are pew envelopes marked "Food Basket."

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed
<i>January 2010</i>			
3 Communion Service 10:00 Service of Worship 9:00 Adult Focus Gr.	4 9:30 PW CT 11:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Communications 7:00 AA	5 9:30 Bible Moderators 10:15 Special Meeting 1:30 Big Band 2:00 Memorial Com 7:00 Shepherd Gr. #2	6 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Embroidery Gld 1:00 Symphony Guild #1 3:00 Education Com. 4:00 Kirk Choir
10 10:00 Service of Worship 9:00 Adult Focus Gr.	11 9:30 Circle Meetings 6:00 Village Chorale 7:00 AA	12 9:00 Greenhorns 10:15 Special Meeting 1:00 Session Meeting 1:30 Big Band	13 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Symphony Gld #2 4:00 Kirk Choir 6:30 Faith & Film
17 10:00 Service of Worship 8:45 Discussion Group 9:00 Adult Focus Gr.	18 OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Jr. DAY) 10:00 Congregational Care Com. 10:00 FOCUS 6:00 Village Chorale 7:00 AA	19 10:15 Special Meeting 1:30 Big Band 1:30 Stewardship Com.	20 9:00 Bible Study 2:30 Heifer Project 2:00 Bell Choir 4:00 Kirk Choir 7:00 Caring & Sharing
24 10:00 Service of Worship 8:45 Discussion Group 9:00 Adult Focus Gr.	25 3:00 Administration 10:00 FOCUS 2:00 Grief Meeting 6:00 Village Chorale 7:00 AA 7:00 Kirk Konnection	26 10:15 Special Meeting 1:30 Big Band	27 9:00 Bible Study 2:00 Bell Choir 4:00 Kirk Choir
31 10:00 Service of Worship 8:45 Discussion Group 9:00 Adult Focus Gr.			

Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 Communion Service 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p>
<p>7 9:00 Fellowship Com 9:00 Christian Practice 1:00 Evangelism Com 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p>8 3:30 Shepherd Grp #7</p>	<p>9 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p>
<p>14 9:00 Christian Practice 3:00 Mission Com. 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p>15 7:30 Men's Assoc.</p>	<p>16 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p>
<p>21 9:00 Christian Practice 8:30 Potter's Clay 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p>22 10:00 FOCUS</p>	<p>23 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p>
<p>28 9:00 Christian Practice 2:00 Gardening W/S 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p>29 10:00 FOCUS</p>	<p>30 5:00 Informal Worship Service</p>



New Territory *continued from page 5*

two women.” She made her own decisions and went to a nursing home where she was very happy. That’s one of the things that affected my decision. I do not feel it is fair to the children. They will come if I need them. It would require too much of their time (if I stayed here).

Q: Do you consult with others about your decisions?

A: Yes. My close friends and I all talk about it. We question each other’s decisions to help them make up their mind. We’ve laughingly said we were going to get a keeper and move into one four-bedroom house. But we also talked seriously, asking have you thought of this or that? Not trying to make up their mind, just to help each other.

Q: What will trigger action on this decision?

A: When I don’t feel I can handle my business. Or if I physically need help, such as with arthritis or a stroke. I really don’t want to wait too long.

Peggy Cook gave me a piece of advice I have really thought about. She said after she moved she wished she had done so a year earlier when she was first diagnosed with MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome). Now she lives in a place where there are a lot of activities and nice people, but she doesn’t have the energy to participate.

So, I hope I remember that and move before I get to that point. I just hope I’m smart enough to know.

If I go soon enough I can still volunteer at the local hospital where I’ve been a lot and I have a few friends there I can get together with. But if I wait too long, I will just know my family and a few people from our church.

That, I haven’t figured out yet.

Q: What’s been most helpful in this whole decision-making process?

A: My ability to share and receive input from family and friends. A lot of families do not want their children to know much about what they want, but ours is pretty open.

When I talk with others about this they say, “Oh,

but my son doesn’t need to know.” Or they don’t sit down and look at situations, and they refuse to accept that their children are no longer children, but are adults with a good mind.

Keeping this to yourself isn’t good. My kids have always been open, sometimes more than I wanted to know.

Q: Might you change your mind?

A: I could. I just have to go with the flow. I have to have a plan in place, even if I don’t eventually use it.

Q: Who knows what your plans are?

A: My sons, their wives, grandchildren, and my friends around here. I get a lot from friends when we talk seriously. Feedback opens up new views and ideas. I know someone who wouldn’t make any decisions or even talk to her children about this. When she became ill, her family had to make them and she’s very unhappy now.

Many people don’t want their children to know anything about their health problems or their finances and at some point the children have to make the decision for them and they are not satisfied. My mother decided for herself and did what she wanted. She told us about it and was satisfied with her decision.

Q: Do you consider yourself a risk taker?

A: No. I am not a risk taker. I do look at options.

Q: Wasn’t it a risk to come to the Village?

A: Yes. I wasn’t ready to go. My husband had some illness, took early retirement and said, “We’re going.” I cried all the way to St. Louis. But when I got here, I decided to make the best of it. Now I’m going to cry all the way back to Illinois.

Q: Are you afraid of the uncertainty?

A: The only uncertainty I have is when to make the decision to go. It’s going to be a sad day when I leave. A lot of my friends have already gone. So I know it’s going to go that way.

Q: What advice do you have for other seniors?

A: They need to start looking at what they might like to do before they get sick so they have a long time to look into it, and discuss it with whomever they feel comfortable, including their family.

An update on Larry and Toni Bradley by Madelyn Young

After a debilitating automobile accident in early October, Kirk Minister of Music, Larry Bradley, and his wife, Toni, spent a number of weeks hospitalized in Missouri. In November, they were transported to Franklin, Tenn., where their daughter, Sara, could assist them in their recovery. In this update, Madelyn Young is pleased to report all three Bradleys are in good spirits as they continue to adjust to this upheaval in their lives.

During Thanksgiving week, my husband, Robin, and I traveled to Franklin to spend the holiday with our children. We had arranged to visit the Bradleys and were thrilled to carry two prayer shawls, Larry's ukulele and music, his Bible and several other gifts from people in the Kirk.

Arriving at Sara's townhouse in Franklin, we found Larry able to move around using his walker. At that time, he was still not allowed to put any weight on his leg, the one repaired during surgery, but he looked forward to the following Tuesday when his eight-week wait would be over and he could begin rehab.

After visiting with Larry and Sara we all drove over to NHC Place, the large rehab facility in Franklin where Toni was staying and receiving care. Using a wheelchair, Sara pushed Larry inside, and we met Toni in her wheelchair in a large, cheerful meeting room. We laughed and talked and had a wonderful visit.

Toni's physical therapist is my daughter, Sharon Roumen, and the two of them have worked well together. Toni has some feeling in her legs, but cannot stand. She does have movement in her hips and is able to move from bed to wheelchair. Recently, she has been able to move from her wheelchair into the front seat of Sara's car. That's been an exciting new step in her progress.

I talked with Larry by phone on Dec. 12, to see how he was progressing with his rehab. By the way, Sharon is now Larry's therapist, too. He had completed three sessions, and said he could already tell he was making progress. He had been sleeping on his back since surgery because it hurt to lie on his right side, due to his injured leg having to rest on his other leg. By Friday night, after exercises and electric stimulation during the week, he was able to lie on his side with less discomfort. He will continue rehab for six weeks.

Larry said they hope to move Toni from the rehab facility to Sara's home before Christmas. Sara is caring for her parents full time. When Larry and Toni are able to return to their home in Hot Springs, she plans to come with them.

All of you at the Kirk will be happy to know the two Presbyterian churches in Franklin are reaching out to the Bradleys. Our son, Steve, and his wife, Tonya, are members of Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church (USA). Their pastor, the Rev. Sally Hughes, has visited with Larry and Toni. Sally told Larry she'd like to come play her uke with him.

Our daughter, Sharon, and her husband, Eddy, attend Franklin's First Presbyterian Church (USA). Sharon was planning to take Toni to their Lessons and Carols service on Sunday evening, Dec. 13. Larry and Sara planned to meet them there. Larry was excited to finally be going to church after being away since early October.

The Bradleys send us their love. Please continue to keep all of them in your prayers.

Dinners for six or eight resume in January

Are you interested in becoming a part of this group? We meet once a month for dinner at which the host couple provides the main dish and guests bring either the vegetable, salad or dessert. The Fellowship committee invites any of you who are interested to join us for fellowship, food and fun. Please call Vianne Huff, 922-4624 or June Moore, 922-5662.

News from the Flocks

Baa, Baa Black Sheep



Attending their annual Black Sheep gathering were (front row, l-r) Frank Moore, June Moore, Ruth Carpenter, Martha Wilson, Ellen Marshall, Nell White, Sheri Swan, Harry Marshall and (back row, l-r) Gary Rector, Jim White, Ned Wilson, Jim Carpenter, Shirley Siska, and Lloyd Swan. Not pictured: Dotty Rector, photographer.

"The Black Sheep," members of a former Kirk Shepherd Group, met at the beautifully decorated home of Harry and Ellen Marshall for their annual reunion and Christmas celebration.

The group has been together 15 years and calls itself "Black Sheep," although they don't admit to doing anything sinister to deserve this name.

They've just enjoyed each other's company since meeting at that Shepherd group long ago. Their purpose is simple: To renew old friendships, catch up on news, and nibble on some tasty appetizers. Even those who've moved away often send e-mails telling of their current doings.

— Dotty Rector

Groups 4 and 6 host dinner

Shepherd Groups 4 and 6, came together on Dec. 17 for a combined dinner at Tranquilo's. Group 10, the Newcomers, were invited to share in the fellowship. Carolyn Starr and Adair Atkinson were hostesses for the evening.

"We wanted an opportunity to get better acquainted with the newer members of our church," said Carolyn Starr. "We felt the combined dinner provided a perfect opportunity." Thirty people attended the event making it a festive evening everyone.

— Edie Loveday

Friday night at the movies

Hoffius Hall was the scene for fun, food and fellowship Dec. 11 when Shepherd Group 10 hosted a movie night for Shepherd Groups 1, 2 and 4.

The evenings entertainment was a showing of the movie *A Christmas Story*, a nostalgic look back to the 1940's when a young boy's only Christmas wish is for a Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun.

The movie had the audience chuckling as they were reminded of their own youthful experiences: The school bully, the "Triple-Dog Dare" and the pronouncement from Mom to "Eat your dinner. There are children starving in China."

Everyone brought their favorite snacks to share, and hot cider and wassail were provided by hosts Gary and Carol Clark, and John and Janice Clark.

Providing the proper ambience for the evening was Gary and Carol Clark's infamous "Leg Lamp," a visual reminder to everyone exactly what movie was being shown.

The lamp has gained a reputation in the Village and Gary now posts signs in his neighborhood directing the curious in their quest to see "The Lamp." It has now been moved to the Clark's front porch for easier viewing.



Carol Clark with the Leg Lamp

— Edie Loveday

Group 9 visited museum

Members of Shepherd Group 9 visited MacArthur Museum, Dec. 16 to see the Generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant traveling exhibit.

Attending were Rich and Millie Croson, Doris and Carl Simmons, Leroy and Jane Vance, Mac Throckmorton and daughter, Dana, and friend JoAnn Tate. The group also enjoyed lunch at the Art Museum.

Tempels were surprised on Thanksgiving Day prior to their move

Dec. 12 was a day of both sadness and joy for 27-year Kirk members Bill and Edmee Tempel. It was a day of sadness as Village Movers loaded their belongings, furniture and car while Bill, Edmee and their beloved cats flew to their new home in the Chicago area.

It was also a day of joy, for they will now be living only a few miles from their daughter, Cindy.

Health reasons have kept the Tempels from attending services for the last few years. Our ministers have regularly included them in prayers of concern as both Bill and Edmee were going through even more health difficulties.

Members of Shepherd Group 9 and the Greenhorns provided much assistance with meals, both during and following Bill's recent hospitalization for shoulder surgery after a fall.

In November, as moving arrangements were being finalized, Janie Smith, Ruth Hamilton and Suzanne Cain (member and next door neighbor) secretly arranged for the Tempels to attend the annual Thanksgiving dinner so the congregation could bid them farewell. Thanks to Carol and Gary Clark, Suzanne and four family members of other neighbors, the Tempels were able to attend.

The Rev. Don Trent surprised them by saying a few words in their honor. Janie and Suzanne presented them with a card Fellowship Committee members had signed, and gave them gifts including a shawl and blanket from the Congregational Care Committee.

Edmee said the treasured gifts would be put to frequent use on cold Chicago winter nights. We will miss these dear, long-time Kirk members. Please continue to include them in your prayers as they start this new journey.

Bill and Edmee would love to stay in touch with their beloved Kirk friends and want to share their new contact information: 1330 East Rand Rd # 66. Des Plaines, IL 60016.

— Suzanne Cain and Janie Smith



Bill and Edmee Tempel with the Rev. Don Trent, Janie Smith (back row center) and Suzanne Cain. (Dave Hamilton photo)

Army Major described Afghanistan

Major Chris Franklin spent a year in Afghanistan training the Afghan army. His slide presentation in December at the Men's Association was more informing about human conditions than words can tell.

He said the rural meadowlands below snow-covered mountains with herds of goats free roaming is like a step back in time. The land remains littered with old war vehicles from WWI.

Life for the natives is brutally hard and impoverished beyond our imagination.

The average life span of Afghans is 45 years. One in 12 women die in childbirth and 25 percent of the children die before age five. The caloric intake of Afghans is the lowest in the world.

— Tom Hightower

Dickens' Christmas Carol discussed

Dr. Heinrich Eiler led a discussion Dec. 1 of the rich history and anthropological basis for understanding Dickens' famous *A Christmas Carol*.

Using the story and animated character movie of how Ebenezer Scrooge changed from a rich, and stingy man to one who became benevolent, Dr. Eiler described how society has structured human relationships which over time resulted in the creation of distinct classes.

Dr. Eiler's lecture gave a new perspective on the celebration of Christmas and a better understanding of the reasoning and plot of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

— Tom Hightower



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1	Joe Atkinson	Jan. 10	Diane Malottki	Jan. 21	Jane McGregor
	Wayne Copeland	Jan. 11	Janet Durbin	Jan. 22	Jerral Johnson
	Dick Olson	Jan. 12	Bob Burt	Jan. 23	Don Turner
Jan. 2	Nancy Nogle		Debbie Cordell		Eula Mae Veeder
Jan. 3	Dorothy Stroupe		Bob Geissler	Jan. 24	Phyllis Miller
Jan. 4	Jeanne Lowenthal	Jan. 14	Darell Fisher	Jan. 25	Halene Strautman
	Martha Patty		Ted Veiock	Jan. 26	Lloyd Swan
	Tom Valentine	Jan. 17	Jane Harless	Jan. 27	Duane Claveau
Jan. 5	Gerald Pogemiller		Charles Moffett		Betty Jo Judy
Jan. 6	Don Elsenheimer	Jan. 18	Jean Brown	Jan. 28	Shirley Peglar
Jan. 7	Janet Ferris	Jan. 20	Margaret Reece	Jan. 30	Connie Stewart
Jan. 8	Sherry Barefield	Jan. 21	Anne Holt	Jan. 31	Emily Faulk

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 3	Gary and Dotty Rector	Jan. 26	Art and Marty Volkema
Jan. 16	Don and Helen VanStone	Jan. 30	Tom and Helen Valentine
Jan. 17	Dick and Marilyn Olson	Jan. 31	Don and Marilyn Turner
Jan. 23	Darell and Jean Fisher		

Dear Kirk Friends:

Dear friends at the Kirk,

My sincerest thanks to Bill, Don, Larry and Janie Smith for their many calls, visits and prayers during my hospitalization and recuperation.

Also, many thanks for the care and attention given to Edmee Lee during my absence and for all of the meals prepared and brought in by Leroy and Jane Vance, our Shepherd leaders and fellow members of Group #9 along with the Greenhorns.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful Kirk family.

--Bill Tempel

Thanks and appreciation

My sister Dawn Marshall and I would like to thank the Shepherd Group who so generously provided the meal after the memorial service for our Mom, Jeanne Chesny. Everything was delicious!

We appreciated all the hard work of serving and cleaning up afterwards too!

Along with the meal, we would like to express our appreciation to those who provided and served at the reception. We will always remember that day and are grateful to all who played a part in making Mom's service so special to us, her family.

May God bless all of His servants,
— Debbie Meek

Letters continued page 15

Letters continued from page 14

Heartfelt thanks

My daughter, Monica Harris, and I want to express our sincere appreciation for all the prayers and concerns the Kirk family has showed us during Jimmy's long illness.

Special thanks go to Bill Bailey, Don Trent and to good Kirk friends, Lu and Nancy Otto, for their endless love for our family.

Sincerely,
-- Barbara Harris

A community of faith (revisited)

After my February surgery I said that Pastor Bill often refers to the Kirk as a community. My recent surgery reinforced that thought. Before, during, and after my surgery this caring community again showered us with prayers, visits, meals, get-well cards, and phone calls. This outpouring means a great deal to both of us and certainly has helped the mending process.

Thanks to all for your love and support.

-- Darell Fisher

Thank you

Thank you so much for the loving and caring meal prepared for us after Althea Kuhn's memorial.

We appreciated the opportunity to be together in a quiet setting during this special time.

— Althea Kuhn family

Dear Kirk members,

Emily (Jo) Strong's new address is:
Sunrise Assisted Living, Naperville
North
535 W. Ogden Avenue, Apt. 214
Naperville, Ill., 60563
Phone: 630 717-8135

I know she would like to hear from friends.

— Roberta Shock

Dear Kirk family,

Words cannot express my gratitude to my Kirk family for the calls, cards, food and visits from all of you.

Thank you for caring. I'm making progress and hope to be able to serve you again soon.

— Martha Fast

Dear Pastor Bailey and Kirk members,

Our family would like to thank you for your kind expressions of care and concern for both Lew and myself.

We especially want to thank Don Trent who came to see Lew everyday before leaving on his trip. He even came to our house on the day Lew passed away, bringing comfort and love to our family. Thank you all, dear friends.

— Bev Olmstead

Thank you for your generosity

It is with thanksgiving and immense gratitude that we thank the many Kirk members for their generous contributions to the Small Group Therapy gift program. Gifts, mostly clothing and shoes, will be under the tree for 92 residents to open Christmas morning. You have helped create much joy and happiness and assured them there are kind and loving people who care about them.

This is the sixth year gifts have been provided for these adults with mental illness.

We also want to thank the Mission Committee again for their grant for emergency medicine purchases. This is a blessing for those newly arrivals with no money and no medication.

May your new year be filled with the Lord's blessings.

Peace and love,

— Joyce Leeming and Carolyn Starr
Friends of Small Group Therapy

Kirk members:

A two-page letter, too long to publish here, from members, Bob and Harriet Jones, is posted on the Communication bulletin board in Hoffius Hall for you to read at your leisure.

The Jones now live in Albuquerque, N.M. and have written to friends about their life in their new home.

Their address and telephone number is included.

Please leave the letter on the bulletin board after you've read it for others to enjoy.

Thank you.

— Communication Committee

Please pray for these people we know who are in Harm's Way

Craig Franklin, son of Patricia Franklin - US Air Force - Iraq

Paul Glenn Head, nephew of Alice Smith, Ft. Hood, TX, U.S. Army

Capt. Ryan Herbst, grandson of Shirley Peglar. US Army - Iraq

Gabriel Hodgson, friend of Jene Waite, Afghanistan, U.S. Air Force

David Lindholm, grandson of G. Lindholm, Langlin AFB, U.S. Air Force

Gregory Lindholm, nephew of G. Lindholm, Groton, CT, U.S. Navy

Spc. Timothy Rabideau, son of Marylyn Rabideau, U.S. Air Force, Iraq

Sgt. Adam Sandifer, grandson-in-law of Tom and Ethelee Beverly, U.S. Army, Germany

(Please help keep this list current by calling Wilma Reed, 922-3498, or the church office at 922-1333.)



Do we have your email address?

Important notices from the Kirk are sent by email. Please verify your email address in the membership directory to make sure it is current. New directories are on the table outside the Kirk office.

Newsletter and Bulletin Deadlines

The next **newsletter** deadline is Jan. 15.

Email Joyce Leeming at JBL37@sbcglobal.net

The Sunday **bulletin** deadline is each Wednesday.

Email Sallie Huss at
kirksec2@sbcglobal.net

Send **calendar** changes to Barbara Myers at
kirksec1@sbcglobal.net

Visit the Kirk website today!

www.kirkinthepines.org

Home page: Latest news, worship times

About Us: Session members, committees, history and more.

Ministries: Description of Kirk ministries.

Calendar: The latest entries and changes — by day, week and month. Who, when and where.

Photos: Color photos of Kirk activities.

Sermons: Missed church? Listen to any of the Rev. Bailey's messages during the past year.

Newsletters: See this newsletter at it's best ... in color. Forward to friends, family, visitors as part of Kirk evangelism.

Contact information, Links to Presbytery, POA, Chamber of Commerce, **Membership pictorial directory** and more

Kirk Staff

Bill Bailey, Senior Pastor

Don Trent — Pastoral Associate

Pat Hightower — Interim Music Director

Janie Smith — Visitation Coordinator

Barbara Greenman — Organist/Secretary

Sallie Huss — Secretary

Barbara Myers — Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg — Financial Secretary

Teresa Goodman — Sexton



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Label

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