

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXVI, Issue 1 January, 2012

The Pastor's Corner

Traditionally, the New Year is a time for all of us to make a fresh start—to let go of past mistakes and try to make positive changes in our lives.

Some of us have tried 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. Many of us feel the pressure to attend to areas of growth and to improve ourselves.

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, and through the power of the Spirit, 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.

Happy New Year!

—Bill Bailey

***"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future."***

(Jeremiah 29:11)



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

Nursery provided

***Sunday Study Group
9 a.m.***

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

***Wednesday Bible Study
9 a.m. - Hoffius Hall***

***Thursday Study Group
9 a.m. - Conference Room***

Reader's Guide

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All-Kirk Dinner | 4 |
| An Italian Adventure | 9 |
| Anniversaries | 11 |
| Being Prepared | 8 |
| Birthdays | 11 |
| Clerk's Corner | 2 |
| Gardening | 6 |
| Going Green | 8 |
| Letters | 10 |
| Men's Association | 5 |
| Music Festival concert | 2 |
| Presbyterian Women | 7 |
| Saturday Worship | 3 |
| Staying Well | 6 |

Clerk's Corner

Treasurer's Report

The Session thanks the congregation for their continual support of Christ's Church. For the first 11 months of 2011 receipts exceeded expenditures by \$42,360. By the end of the year, it is estimated there will be approximately \$20,000 remaining in the General Fund.

For the first 11 months of 2011, the Building Fund expenditures were \$822 below receipts.

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Committee reported 179 pledges have been received for the General Fund. A total of \$374,258 with an average of \$2,090.83 has been pledged for 2012. This compares with \$381,319 pledged in 2011.

There were 71 pledges received for the Building Fund for a total of \$37,538. An average pledge was \$528.70. This compares with \$35,938 pledged for the Building Fund in 2011.

The Stewardship Committee and Session wish to thank those who filled out the Time and Talent forms. Information gained from your responses will be helpful to the church committees as they carry out their responsibilities in 2012.

Motions

The Session approved a motion by the Finance Committee to form a Risk Management Safety Committee. By forming this committee, the church will receive a 15 percent discount on its liability insurance. Members on the committee are: Sharon Gardner, chairperson; Bob Rosenthal, Jim Adams, Ed Russell, Pastor Bill Bailey, Dan Stockford, Rich Croson and Darell Fisher.

The Session approved a motion to have Gary Rector continue as church treasurer.

Church Membership

The Session is happy to report that Roger and Molly Baldwin became members of the Kirk on December 13, 2011. On December 11, The Reverend Bill Bailey baptized their young children, Gary and Adele Baldwin. It was a moving experience for everyone in church.

We regret the following members died recently:

Bernice Miller, DOD November 4, 2011

George W. (Bill) Solomon, DOD December 8, 2011

Bob Geissler, DOD December 12, 2011

To date, the church has lost 25 valued members due to death. Last year 17 new members joined.

Church Statistics

As of December 13, 2011: Members 448 Family Units 288

—Jerral Johnson,
Clerk of Session

Hot Springs Music Festival to hold fundraiser at the Kirk

A concert featuring renowned pianist Michael Gurt will be held in the Kirk sanctuary at **noon on Saturday, February 4**. Gurt, Professor of Piano at Louisiana State University and head of the piano department at the Sewanee Summer Music Center, has made solo appearances with major symphonies in the U.S. and many foreign countries. He is a mentor for students at the Hot Springs Festival each year.

Other guests will be Peter Bay, Music Director and Conductor of the Austin Symphony Orchestra in Texas and music advisor and conductor of the Hot Springs Music Festival, and Todd Cranson, General Director of the Hot Springs Music Festival.

For ticket price and/or to order tickets, call the Hot Springs Music Festival at 501 623-4763.

We hope to see a full house for the concert as it provides an opportunity for the community to visit our church.

Informal Worship Service

5 p.m. each Saturday in Hoffius Hall
Bring a friend to worship and share fellowship.
Everyone is welcome.

A message from Parish Associate Don Trent

Most of you have heard by this time that by my own request, my area of responsibility in the Kirk has been greatly modified.

This change has come about because the time commitment had mushroomed to the point that little was left for doing “retirement” things, and I was unaccustomedly tired most of the time.

My availability for pastoral visitation was being eaten up by the time involved in sermon preparation, so that more and more hours were required.

As you will read elsewhere, Sylvia Tate will take over responsibility for preaching at Saturday Informal Worship, beginning in January, 2012.

Sylvia is a wonderful choice. I will miss the “Saturday congregation” but I am very happy, Saturday friends, that you are in capable hands.

My new contract with the Session assumes that most of my time will be spent in pastoral ministry, which includes institutional and home visitation.

I will still be available for preaching and other duties when Pastor Bill Bailey is away. It is also my intention to continue with a summer study series.

Pastor Bill will take over Tour Host responsibility for the Kirk Tour of Ireland scheduled for September, 2012.

Thank you, everyone, for the many kindnesses shown me during these five years.

—Don Trent

Start the new year with study

Bible Study: The Wednesday morning Bible Study of the Psalms will restart January 11 in Hoffius Hall.

The Thursday Morning Study Group will resume January 12 in the conference room.

The study is of the book *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* by Jack Rogers. Learn what the Bible has to say about homosexuality and discuss what the ramifications are for the church.

Pastor Bailey teaches both classes. New participants are always welcome.

Worship leader to preacher

A familiar Kirk member will become a new member of the church’s staff. The session announced the hiring of Sylvia Tate to fill the part-time



Sylvia Tate

preaching position for our Saturday evening Informal Worship Service beginning January 1, 2012. The position had been held by Parish Associate, the Reverend Don Trent, who is scaling back on his responsibilities.

Sylvia comes to us with a wealth of education and experience. This native Arkansan graduated with a BS

degree from Arkansas State University. She graduated and received certification from the Arkansas Presbytery Commissioned Lay Pastor Academy.

She also attended Memphis Theological Seminary and completed 15 hours in Old Testament, New Testament, Worship, Pastoral Counseling, Praying the Scriptures, and Sermon Preparation there.

She served as pulpit supply in northeastern Arkansas and southern Missouri, then as pastor in Pocahontas, Ark. She has served on Arkansas Presbytery Committee on Ministry.

Sylvia married Paul Tate in 2005 and joined him in Hot Springs Village. At the Kirk, she has served as Worship Leader for the Informal Worship Service, has preached on PW Weekend, and has served as moderator of the Worship Committee.

“God gifts us with abilities and talents, and I believe I am gifted with the ability to search scriptures and relate them to what’s going on in the world today and present this to God’s people,” says Sylvia. She loves to preach; it is a joy to her.

“The transition from worship leader to pastor will be challenging for me and members of the congregation. However, our purpose is to worship the Lord and to provide a place for that to happen. The assurance that God provides love and grace to those in His service will enable this to happen.

“The family-like atmosphere of congeniality will not change,” says Sylvia. “And, who knows, we might even experience a preacher in blue jeans.”

—Dotty Rector
(Jamie Federick photo)

FOCUS vision classes cancelled

The FOCUS classes scheduled to begin January 23 have been cancelled.

Instructor Nancy Otto said they hope to reschedule the classes in the fall.

Dinners for Six or Eight

“Dinners for Six or Eight” for 2012 will begin in January. We meet once a month for dinner. Rotating hosts provide the main dish and guests bring either a vegetable, salad or a dessert.

The Fellowship committee invites any of you who are interested to join us for fellowship, food and fun.

It is a great way to get to know fellow members of the Kirk.

Please call Sandy Adams, 915-9006 or Becky Baldwin, 915-8573 for more details.

Shepherd Group 7 breakfast

Members of Shepherd Group 7 will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 14 at Home Plate restaurant on Highway 7. Order from the menu.

Reminder cards will be mailed but your Shepherd Group leaders would like you to note the date. Replies will be requested.

Flowers for Sunday services

The 2012 Flower Calendar is posted in Hoffius Hall. Please sign up to honor or memorialize persons with flowers.

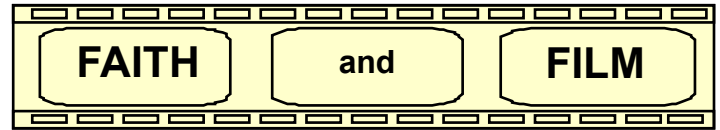
The flowers are now ordered from Beehive which delivers them in time to adorn the sanctuary for Sunday worship services.

Bouquets cost \$37.50; rosebuds announcing the birth of grandchildren and great-grandchildren are \$5.50.

Call Sandy Adams at 915-9006 if you have questions about the flower orders.

Party Bridge

Party Bridge will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on the third Friday each month in Hoffius Hall. The first event will be January 20. Please get your partner and call Jan Clark, 922-4308 or Vianne Huff, 922-4624, so they will know how many tables to set up.



Faith and Film will not meet in January.



Help set up for communion

If you have a little spare time on Saturday once a month, Sandy Adams would appreciate help in preparing the trays for first Sunday's communion.

Give Sandy a call at 915-9006 and offer your assistance.

**Let's get together
at the annual
All-Kirk Dinner
6 p.m.
Monday, January 30
at
*The DeSoto Club***

**Delicious food
\$14 each person
Sign up beginning Jan. 7, 8**

***Music for your listening
pleasure or to
dance the night away
by the***

The Village Big Band

Great fun and fellowship Cash bar

Kirk starts Safety Ministry

A Safety Ministry has been formed at Kirk in the Pines with the help of our insurance agent Steve Romine. Why a Safety Ministry? Kirk in the Pines Session recognizes the value of the people and facilities under our care, and embraces safety and security as a key value of the church.

A Risk Management and Safety Team has been established. Members are Sharon Gardner, Insurance and Risk Management, chair; Bob Rosenthal, Administration, secretary; Jim Adams, Finance; Ed Russell, Building and Grounds; Bill Bailey, pastor; Dan Stockford, sexton; and members-at-large Darell Fisher and Rich Croson. This team will meet quarterly to assess the facility and potential safety hazards.

Kirk Staff will be trained to recognize hazards and report them so they can be corrected. Every member of the Kirk is part of the safety team. There will be education in the newsletter quarterly for Kirk members.

With winter upon us we may see slippery or wet floors. If you see a hazard such as water on the floor, an object that doesn't belong in a walkway, or other potential hazards, wipe it up, pick it up, move it or if you are unable to do the task, immediately find someone who can remedy the fault.

Always watch where you are walking whether on flat surfaces or stairs. The Scripture says, "we are our brother's keeper" and what better way to do that than protect ourselves and each other from unnecessary injury.

The by-product of beginning a Safety Ministry is that through evaluation of our church for safety and the education of the team, we were able to save 15 percent on our insurance costs for year 2012.

You will be hearing more from the Safety Ministry Team. Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Sharon Gardner,
Chair

Planning to be away from home? Let us know!

Please notify the Kirk office if you plan to be out of town or if you are hospitalized. Concerned callers and friends worry when they cannot reach you.

Kirk Men's Association

New Kirk members, Molly and Roger Baldwin, will be guest speakers at the January 20 Men's Association meeting.

The couple joined the Kirk in December. They will talk about their recent move to the area and the operating and future plans for their Clear Creek Gardener Center at 1923 Mountain Pine Road.

You may remember Roger assisted his parents, Ed and Becky Baldwin, when they prepared barbecue for the golfing awards dinner, or you may have witnessed the baptism of their two children, Gary and Adele, on December 11.

Everyone is invited to come meet the Baldwins, welcome them to the Kirk, and have breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in Hoffius Hall before the meeting.



ESP ... the buddy program

There are many single persons living in our Village. Widows, widowers, divorced and those never married. As we get older we need someone to "lean on." Most of us come from other states and countries, and our families are far away.

The Congregational Care Committee began ESP (Every Single Person) several years ago and there are now more than 50 people in the program. It is a simple program. Everyone has a "buddy" he contacts every day. If someone breaks a leg, has a stroke, or cannot get to the phone, the buddy will get him help immediately. Doing this quickly could save a life.

During January the ESP files will be updated. If you would like to be added to the program, we can find you a buddy or you can suggest someone.

Call Pat Maack Ormsbee at 922-2250 for more information or to join ESP.

MISSION DOLLARS

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollars campaign. \$619 was collected for the month of November 2011.

Gardening ... from Alpha to Omega

The gardening workshop will begin 2012 with Molly and Roger Baldwin, owners of Clear Creek Gardener, as guests on Thursday, January 26.

Clear Creek Gardener, 1923 Mountain Pine Road, is a retail plant nursery specializing in unique plants, organic soil amendments and low-impact plant pest control. They feature roses, native species azaleas, and heirloom vegetables.

Molly is their nursery professional. She has a degree in horticulture and more than 10 years of experience in the nursery business. She is a certified master gardener and a certified nursery professional.

The Baldwins became new members of the Kirk in November and have two young children, Gary and Adele.

Gardeners of all levels are invited to the gardening workshop meetings at 2 p.m. the fourth Thursday each month in Hoffius Hall, January through May and September through November. Credits can be earned by those seeking Master Gardener certification.

Kirk Christmas concert

An appreciative audience attended the “Christmas with Music and Song” concert Sunday, Dec. 11.

The story of Christmas began with the Leaven Sisters asking the audience to “Hear the Angels Shouting” and then taking them to a place where “Mary’s Little Boy Chile” was born, providing a “Stable Prayer.”

The Kirk Hand-bell Choir joyously rang in the holiday season with Christmas favorites. MSG “Followed that Star” to the manger. Choir director Larry Bradley’s melodious tenor voice made “Child of Love” come alive! Heartsong asked, “Mary Did You Know” all the things your child would do and then celebrated the “Birthday of the King.”

The Kirk Choir continued the story of Christmas with “Lead Me Back to Bethlehem,” a wonderful cantata to perform and, from all reports, enjoyed by the audience. The Christmas story was told so well through the cantata. Soloists Fran and Abe Stroud brought Mary and Joseph to life. Norm Martin, Sharon Gardner, Carol Gardner and Sylvia Tate helped the choir with “Come Down to Bethlehem.” Judy Corwin and Don Elsenheimer, narrators,

Tips for staying well this winter

“During the cold and flu season, simple precautions should be practiced to help stay well yourself and to keep from passing along viruses to others,” says Janie Smith, R.N. and Congregational Care moderator.

When Passing the Peace during worship services, be aware some members have compromised immune systems and are concerned about shaking hands. Do not be offended if a handshake is refused. A smile and a nod can be a meaningful way to Pass the Peace of Christ. The knuckle greeting, the elbow shake or a little wave are other alternatives.

Common sense precautions include frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers placed about the church building.

“Hands off-the-face” approach. It is amazing how many times we touch our faces unknowingly.

Both cold and flu viruses are air-borne. Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

Gargle with warm salt water daily. Cleanse nostrils with Q-tips and warm water.

Boost your natural immunity with foods rich in vitamin C. Take a daily multi-vitamin if needed.

STAY HOME when you are not feeling well.

Meals on Wheels delivery

The Kirk is a vital part of the “*Village Meals on Wheels*” program. Each March members of the Kirk deliver meals to Villagers who need help preparing nutritious food. Meals are delivered five days a week. Two people are needed each day for about three-plus hours — one to navigate, one to drive.

It is a very rewarding day, meeting very thankful, appreciative people.

We will be signing up in February. Watch for the sign-up table.

Last year 34 Kirk members participated and 575 meals were delivered!

rounded out the story with strong, inflective voices. Barb Greenman provided supportive accompaniment to ensembles and choir and played in the Bell Choir. Jack Bullard took care of sound.

A festive reception, coordinated by Judy Rosenthal and assisted by the Fellowship Committee, was held following the concert.

—Sharon Gardner



Presbyterian Women

A Work of Heart

As we finished 2011 at our PW December Gathering, we were reminded again of the strength that comes from our warm fellowship and shared commitment to Jesus Christ. Thanks goes to all those who helped make it such a festive occasion.

The PW new year will begin with Circle meetings the week of January 9th. This will be a great time to get together again after the holidays and delve back into our Bible study on the Beatitudes. Everyone is asked to bring a box of cereal for the Faith Fellowship Food Bank.

On behalf of the Kirk's Presbyterian Women, I pray that the world may experience grace and peace in the new year. And may we do our part to help make it so.

—Ruth Hamilton,
Moderator

PW Gathering and luncheon

Presbyterian Women of the Kirk held their winter gathering December 12. Pastor Bill Bailey taught Lesson 4, "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice." Afterwards the women enjoyed a delicious lunch and music in Hoffius Hall.



The Leaven Sisters—Fran Stroud, Janna Lyndon, and Sharon Gardner—harmonized on several holiday numbers at the PW luncheon.



Santa (a.k.a. Dan Stockford) made a surprise appearance as Heartsong— Sylvia Tate, Fran Stroud, Carol Gardner, and Sharon Gardner were singing. The ensemble entertained the PW with their humorous rendition of *Twelve Days After Christmas* and other fun songs.



PW moderator Ruth Hamilton (left) visited with Greenhorn member Ellen Marshall, who helped prepare another delicious luncheon, and Lucy Allen (right), who participated in the earlier worship service upstairs.
(Madelyn Young photos)

Address change for submitting items for the newsletter

Beginning in January, information for the Kirk newsletters should be sent to:

Dotty Rector,
Communications Committee moderator

Email: gdirector@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: 922-5869

Or it can be placed in the Communications mailbox in the hall outside the church office

The deadline is the 15th of each month for the next month's publication.

Go green! Recycled plastic bags turned into sleeping mats for the homeless

The Kirk Konnection will be learning how to create sleeping mats for the homeless from plastic bags.

Villager Lucy Solberg will instruct them at a 10 a.m. meeting January 11 at the Unitarian Universalist Village Church at Calella and Barcelona Rd. Solberg has been teaching her assembly line approach to making the mats for several years.

The Kirk Konnection is joining with the UUVC, which will provide space for storage, collection, drop-off and pick-up for all phases of this project. They hope other churches will become involved, too.

This initial two-hour meeting will provide some "hands-on" experience, and they will learn about collection, sorting, folding, cutting, joining to make "plarn," a plastic yarn, from the recycled plastic bags that will be crocheted into sleeping mats.

Villager Pati Trippel will assist Solberg in guiding the group in this labor-intensive recycling project.

Mats are distributed to the homeless through Jackson House in Hot Springs.

Anyone interested in learning this process is welcome to join Kirk Konnection members and enjoy the fellowship and fun.

For more information, email Jean Dillon at jean_dil@yahoo.com.

Winter has arrived! Be prepared for bad weather

Falling snow is pretty but loss of electricity and ice freezing on the streets are not enjoyable. More road accidents occur in Hot Springs Village during these times than any other. Too often the drivers are trying to make a quick trip to the grocery for milk or bread.

Plan ahead so you can stay at home.

Stock non-perishable foods easily prepared on a gas burner or grill. Have a box of powdered milk and jugs of water on hand should your water lines freeze. Reconstituted dry milk works just fine in coffee, canned soups and cereals. And don't forget crackers! These types of items have a long shelf life.

Electricity off? Plan for alternative heat and cooking sources: A fresh propane tank for your grill; gas or firewood for your fireplace; a counter-top gas burner for heating food; and kerosene if you use a kerosene heater.

Be safe. Candles are a major cause of house fires. They can topple over and are dangerous to carry from room to room. Candles in jars are the safest.

Have extra batteries for your flashlights, lanterns and radio. Should the Village radio station KVRE (92.9) be unmanned, the police department will ask KLAZ (105.9) in Hot Springs to give road condition reports. Listen for cancellations and closings.

Have at least a week's supply of your medications on hand at all times.

Keep your cell phone fully charged and only use it for short and important calls. Check on your neighbors.

If you use a cell phone charger in your car, open the garage door part way to allow exhaust fumes to escape when running the motor.

Walmart on Central, Kroger on Airport Rd., and Price Cutter on Albert Pike in Hot Springs stock dry ice year-round.

Christ of the Hills United Methodist church, 700 Balearic Rd. is the only designated disaster center in the Village. Coronado Center is a designated comfort station for meals.

More *Preparing for Disaster* information is available in the Kirk's brochure stands.

Let's stay prepared until spring arrives.

Heed the old saying:

"It's better to be safe than sorry!"



FOOD BASKET

During **January** the Kirk is collecting non-perishable food for **Potter's Clay**. Their needs are canned chicken, meat and fish, canned chili, soups and stews, boxed dinner helpers for hamburger, tuna and chicken, macaroni and cheese, pasta and pasta sauces, canned fruit and juices, dry and canned beans, dry and canned milk, hot and cold cereals. For those who wish to make a monetary gift, there are pew envelopes marked "Food Basket."

An Italian Adventure

The moon over Rome at 5 a.m. shines through windows of the bus carrying groggy travelers toward the last leg of their extraordinary Italian adventure—the l-o-n-g airplane ride home.

How does one reflect on such an event? Shall we begin with the sublime and then the ridiculous?

First, let us visit the amazing government building of Venice, a democratically governed city-state, existing 11 centuries before our nation. The walls and ceilings are adorned with canvas oil masterpieces, and the beautiful marble floors are laid as an optical illusion. On the other hand, today's public restrooms, when available, have no seat on the commode, apparently encouraging knee bends.

In Florence we behold Michael Angelo as he frees figures enslaved in marble, and the majestic David, muscles and even veins bulging, as he stands ever ready to slay Goliath! Yet today, if you are hungry you can buy food, but if you wish to sit down to eat it, you may be charged as much as twelve dollars more.

The City of Pompeii, buried in 79 AD under tons of volcanic ash from Mount Vesuvius, is now

nearly 85 percent excavated. We walk on paving stones and marble plazas laid several centuries before Christ. Empty space found in the solidified ash when filled with plaster of Paris reveals human remains caught in repose or perhaps in defense of the oncoming tragedy. Today, regardless of the outside temperature, government regulations require all air conditioning to be turned off after November 1. Are we spoiled?

Shall we think about the Coliseum of Rome where gladiators and Christians both lost their lives to wild beasts for entertainment, or a Frenchman who, to get to church, built a long flight of marble stairs to forever be known as the Spanish Staircase?

Ponder the Vatican, a fully enclosed state within the city of another state. Consider a chapel within the Vatican where a sculptor spent four years painting a ceiling and remains more famous than many of the Popes.

So this bus load of travelers arrives as instructed, three hours before departure, to find the ticket counter does not open for another hour.

Would we do it again? In a heart beat!!

—Lowell Gardner

Accompanying the Rev. Don Trent and the Rev. Bill Bailey on a tour of Italy Nov. 1-12 were Anne and Elijah Bailey, JoAnn Bowen, Ruth Richards, Jim and Debbie Cordell, Jean Fisher, E.J. Pangle, Lowell and Sharon Gardner, Mary Sue Greene, Marilyn Miller, Lon and Liz Hardin, Ellen Harkey, Carol Williams, Jane Harless, Linda Nicholson, James and Norma Hays, Dottie Isaacson, Sandra Larson, Gary and Carolyn Jacobs, Frederik and Barbara Kalsbeek, Tom and Judy King, Charles and Robin Morrison, Jean and Clark Mowry, Nancy Nogle, Eula Veeder, Ed and Suzanne Reinsch, Jason Treb, Jolene Gardner, Leroy and Jane Vance, Don and Helen Van Stone.



At the ancient Pompeii amphitheater

Dear Kirk Friends:

Thank you friends

I have both a new hip and a new appreciation for the generosity of my Kirk friends.

Thanks to Pastor Bill and to the Mowrys for driving all the way to North Little Rock to visit me in the hospital.

Thanks to those whose cards overflowed our mailbox, and to those who prepared yummy food for us.

I have felt surrounded by your love.

—Dotty Rector

Thank you

Thank you to all for your cards, food, kind words and prayers which helped me through a long illness.

The people at the Kirk are the greatest.

—Bob Berry

Thank you for helping

Nothing fills the heart with more joy and gratitude than knowing someone less fortunate had a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Joy from seeing their excitement and anticipation leading up to the moment, and gratitude to the many members of the Kirk who gave so generously to help provide gifts for residents at Small Group Therapy.

While we are blessed that we can have new socks, a new shirt, jeans or toiletries when we need them, most of the 83 residents at SGT do not have that luxury. That's why your gifts were so appreciated.

Thank you, one and all, and to the Mission Committee for making this Christmas a joyful one for them.

And thank you, Dan Stockford, for surprising them in full Santa regalia with your bells and big HO, HO, HO! You made their day and they will treasure the pictures taken with you.

Thanks also to Jamie Federick, Gail Salmen and Jean Fisher for shopping and to Gail, Jean, Carolyn Starr and Carol Clark for their assistance with wrapping all those gifts. You are life-savers!

You all make me proud to be witness to your generosity and Christian love.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

—Joyce Leeming

All tags taken from the 2011 Christmas Giving Tree



The Mission Committee thanks you for your wonderful participation in the 2011 Christmas Giving Tree. There will be 107 smiles on boys' and girls' faces this Christmas season because of you.

—Marilyn Johnson

***Letters for next month's publication should be submitted by the 15th of this month. Thank you.**

**Invite someone to church
this weekend!**



January 2012



Birthday Celebrations

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------|
| Jan. 1 | Joe Atkinson | Jan. 9 | Mike Carpenter | Jan. 21 | Anne Holt |
| | Wayne Copeland | Jan. 10 | Priscilla Hayek | | Jane McGregor |
| | Dick Olson | | Diane Malotki | Jan. 22 | Jerral Johnson |
| Jan. 2 | Nancy Nogle | Jan. 11 | Janet Durbin | Jan. 23 | Don Turner |
| Jan. 3 | Dorothy Stroupe | Jan. 12 | Debra Cordell | | Eula Mae Veeder |
| Jan. 4 | Jeanne Lowenthal | Jan. 14 | Karen Ammann | Jan. 25 | Halene Strautman |
| | Martha Parry | | Darell Fisher | Jan. 26 | Lloyd Swan |
| | Tom Valentine | Jan. 17 | Jane Harless | Jan. 27 | Duane Claveau |
| Jan. 5 | Gerald Pogemiller | Jan. 18 | Jean Brown | Jan. 28 | Shirley Peglar |
| Jan. 6 | Don Elsenheimer | Jan. 19 | Gerald Bingham | Jan. 29 | Lewis Heaton |
| Jan. 7 | Janet Ferris | | Barbara Heaton | Jan. 30 | Connie Stewart |
| Jan. 8 | Sherry Barefield | Jan. 20 | Margaret Reece | Jan. 31 | Emily Faulk |

Wedding Anniversaries

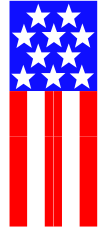
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|---------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Jan. 3 | Gary and Dotty Rector | Jan. 26 | Art and Marty Volkema |
| Jan. 16 | Don and Helen Van Stone | Jan. 30 | Tom and Helen Valentine |
| Jan. 17 | Dick and Marilyn Olson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

A Prayer for the New Year!

*Come, Holy Spirit,
 Spirit of God, Spirit of the Risen Christ,
 Be with us today and always.
 Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
 Be our Strength, our Courage,
 And our Sanctifier.
 May this new year be a time
 Of deep spiritual growth for us,
 A time for welcoming Your graces and gifts,
 A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
 A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
 Come, Holy Spirit,
 Be with us today and always.
 Amen.*

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

Private First Class Richard Conklin, grandson of Tom and Pam Cave, U.S. Army - Iraq
Specialist Brian Hastings, grandson of Bob and Ginnie Hastings. U.S. Army - Iraq
Capt. Ryan Herbst, grandson of Shirley Peglar. U.S. Army - Iraq
1st Lieutenant John C. Hornecker, grandson of John Hornecker, U.S. Army - Ft. Benning, Ga.
Sgt. Adam Sandifer, grandson-in-law of Tom and Ethelee Beverly. U.S. Army - Germany
Commander Thomas W. Siska, son of Shirley Siska. Naval Reserve - Kuwait
Pfc. Andy Richard Olson, grandson of Dick and Marilyn Olson,. U.S. Army - Kuwait



Do we have your latest email address?

Important notices from the Kirk are sent by email. Check your email address in the membership directory. Current directories are available from the brochure stands.

Visit the Kirk website today!

www.kirkinthepines.org

Announcements • Updated Church Calendar • Sermons • Photos • Newsletters • More

Who, what, when, where?

Need to reserve meeting space or change the date? For the most current information about space availability, time or place of activities at the church, go to the Kirk website and click on “**Calendar**” which is updated immediately when we are notified.

Check the dates by the month, week or day. Choose your time, then call the church office.

Newsletter and bulletin deadlines

The **next newsletter** deadline is **January 15**.
Email Dotty Rector at gdirector@sbcglobal.net

The Sunday **bulletin** deadline is Wednesday morning each week before noon.

Email kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net

Send **calendar** changes to
kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net

Kirk Staff

William B. Bailey — Senior Pastor
Don Trent — Parish Associate
Sylvia Tate — Preaching Elder, Informal Worship
Larry Bradley — Minister of Music
Janie Smith — Visitation Coordinator

Barbara Greenman — Office Admin/Organist
Beverly Schaumburg — Business Administrator
Teresa Goodman — Sexton, on leave
Dan Stockford — Sexton
Donnie Edge -- Assistant Sexton



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

275 Asturias Drive

Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Phone: 501-922-1333

Fax: 922-6005

Email: kirkoffice1@sbcglobal.net

www.kirkinthepines.org

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