

# A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXVIII, Issue 3, March, 2009

## The Pastor's Corner

### *A time to renew our spirits and faith*

This past February 25 (Ash Wednesday) marked the beginning of the Lenten Season. The word "Lent" is not found in the Bible, but is an old English term that means "spring." Historically, it has marked the six weeks leading up to Easter when the earliest Christians prepared for their baptisms on Easter. Through the years the season of Lent developed into a time when Christians focused on the disciplines of prayer, fasting and service.

This year our congregation will celebrate the Lenten Season in worship as well as with our traditional "Lenten Lunches." Beginning Wednesday, February 25 and continuing through April 1, we will gather for a meal and fellowship following a short reflection time. The worship will begin at 11 a.m. with a lunch of soup and bread at 11:30, and will be finished by 12:30 p.m. As always, you are encouraged to bring guests and are welcome for the meal or to leave early if work obligations demand.

Make plans to join us as we seek to renew our love for Christ and deepen our faith. Whether we focus on self-denial and "giving up something for Lent" or seek renewal through giving and service, the season of Lent is a time to renew our spirits and our faith.

In Christ's service,  
*Bill Bailey*



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

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

**Focus Group**  
9 a.m.

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



### ***HOLY WEEK SERVICES***

**Palm Sunday — April 5**  
**Two Worship Services**  
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday — April 9**  
**7 p.m. Worship Service**

**Easter Sunday — April 12**  
**Two Worship Services**  
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

### ***Lenten Worship Services***

Wednesdays,  
11 a.m.

March 4 — April 1

## CLERK'S CORNER

The Kirk is now celebrating Lent through April 1. We will have worship services at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays followed by a Lenten luncheon of soup and bread in Hoffius Hall. What a wonderful opportunity to worship and celebrate the Easter Season. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 9 with Communion served. Please join with your fellow members in these times of worship.

Claire Rhodes was installed as Moderator of the Arkansas Presbytery on Friday evening, February 20 during the Presbytery Meeting at University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. A nice group of Kirk members attended to support Claire.

The following business was conducted by the Session during its February 10 meeting:

- Approved January 13 Session minutes.
- Approved the January 25 Called Congregational Meeting minutes.
- Approved an invitation to David Gill to deliver a sermon or conduct "A minute for Ferncliff" on a future Sunday.
- Passed a motion to conduct two worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. with a combined coffee between the services.
- Approved the 2008 Statistical Report for forwarding to the Presbytery.
- Passed a motion to continue three-year terms for Clerk of Session as an active Elder when we rotate clerks in December, 2009.

- Passed a motion to appoint Bill Carson and Bill Reynolds as members of the Audit Committee for the audit of the 2008 books.
- Approved the date change to May 12 for hosting a Community Hymn Sing.
- Approved placing posters on Kirk bulletin boards to call visitors' attention to the broad range of various activities within the church.
- Passed a motion to remove Larry D. and Faith H. Smith from our membership rolls at their request.

**Church Statistics:** As of February 10, 2009

Members: 524                      Family Units: 331

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### Month of January:

**General Fund** receipts exceeded expenditures by \$12,220. We received \$8,180 from prepaid 2009 pledges.

**Building Fund** expenditures exceeded receipts by \$10,921. The deficit resulted from payment for the new sound system in the sanctuary.

Have a glorious Easter Celebration.

God bless each of you,  
*Bob Rosenthal,*  
 Clerk of Session



**Sunday, March 8**

***Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7, please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.***

# Shepherds, sheep and flocks begin to gather

By SHERRY BAREFIELD

Organization of the 2009-2010 Shepherd Groups is almost complete Head Shepherd, Jean Fisher, reports. These groups are your new family for the next two years providing compassionate care, communication and fellowship just as your blood family does.

The entire congregation is included in these groups. Members can elect to be active and participate or to be inactive and not participate.

The more we meet, the better we know and care about one another. We can offer our friendship, love, and care hoping to meet the needs of individuals.

We share both joys and sorrows. Meals, transportation, visits, phone calls and cards are some things the groups do. Some take on service projects. Each group, on a rotating basis, serves coffee after the Sunday church service.

Each group will take on a life and personality of its own during its journey over the next two years. It's an adventure we all look forward to and enjoy!

As of this newsletter deadline **Group 3** and **Group 9** have yet to meet; therefore, no information is available.

New knees abound in **Group 1** led by Jim and Sally Hess and Alan and Jane Harless. They enjoy playing golf the first Sunday each month ... weather permitting.

Co-leaders of **Group 2**, Bob and Vianne Huff and Dave and Theresa Nottrott, say they are gamers. This group meets in Hoffius Hall the first Tuesday night. Cookies or brownies, popcorn or pretzels along with coffee, tea or cold drinks to wash it down are provided by volunteers.

Hand & Foot, dominoes; card games - golf, Oh Pshaw, Spades and Hearts; board games - scrabble, sequence, and catch phrase are among the regular games played. They look forward to bingo and bunco on special nights.

Group 2 sends a warm invitation to everyone who enjoys games and says "Come and play with us and bring your own game to play."

**Group 4**, led by Carolyn Starr and Joe and Adair Atkinson, meets the 4th Thursday for dinner.



While several games were being played, one Shepherd Group 2 table enjoyed a game of Mexican Train dominos.

The first Friday each month **Group 5** meets for breakfast. Gary and Dotty Rector, their leaders, have already sent out invitations for the first breakfast at 8:30 a.m. March 6 at Ramona's Kitchen. Please be sure to R.S.V.P.

Dinner **Group 6** led by Shirley Siska and Don and Marilyn Turner meets the third Thursday.

Traditional **Group 7** leaders, Larry and Cathy Clowers, are hoping assistant leaders will volunteer to help them.

Jerry and Judy Pogemiller's **Group 8** will be meeting for breakfast the third Monday each month. They too, are hoping for someone to volunteer to be co-leaders with them.

Gary and Carol Clark and John and Jan Clark, **Group 10** leaders, have all the new members who joined after January 1, 2008 in their group. Here's hoping they have 100 members before the year 2010 is out!

If anyone would like to be in a different group, call Jean Fisher at 922-9344. She will try to find another group that interests you.

*Attention leaders: News of your group may be publicized in the Kirk Newsletter by emailing Jean Fisher or Sherry Barefield. The deadline is the 15th of the month before it is published, but the sooner the better.*

## *In the Spotlight . . .*



*Displaying items from the Coffee Closet are (from left) Sue Thayer, Helen Fisher and Ruth Naggs.*

### **P.W.'s Coffee Project still perking strong**

Have you tried the varieties of organic coffee offered by the Kirk's Presbyterian Women? It's available in regular or decaf, whole bean or drip grind, and in different flavors. They also have teas and hot chocolate mix

Need a gift? Give them a little advance notice and they'll prepare a gift basket perfect for hostess gifts or a present any time of the year. Prices are very competitive as the Coffee Project operates without profit.

The Kirk Coffee Closet is open the second weekend each month in Hoffius Hall. Vianne Huff is hostess on Saturday night before and after the informal worship service. Charlotte Massey, Sue Thayer, Ruth Naggs and Helen Fisher will help with your selections on Sunday morning after church.

The P.W. must sell what they buy before purchasing more. There may be times they do not have the particular variety you wish to purchase. Restocking does take some thought and planning.

Add these products to your shopping list. You are sure to enjoy them; plus, you will be supporting this important P.W. mission project.

### **Presbyterian Women invite all Women of the Kirk to our March Gathering on Monday, March 9**

Join us at 11 a.m. for Bible Lesson 7,

“The Oppressed Are Set Free”

based on Scripture: Luke 13: 10 -17, 18-21; 14: 1-6 to be taught by

Pastor Bill Bailey.

After the lesson we will enjoy a delicious luncheon prepared by the Greenhorns.

Cost is \$7.50 each, payable at the door.

Following lunch we will explore the idea that God gave us the priceless gift of health and strength that we might use it in the service of others.

Our guest speaker will be Lisa Gilmore, County Extension Agent for the University of Arkansas in Garland County. Lisa brought the Strong Women training program to Arkansas. She will share ways that we can be stronger and healthier as we grow older. Debbie Tate, volunteer instructor at McAuley Center, will accompany Lisa.

**Reservations for lunch are due by Sunday, March 1. Please call Carol Sue Williams at 922-6182.**

\* \* \*

#### **Dates to Remember**

**April 25** – Saturday: AR PW Spring Gathering, Park Hill Presbyterian Church, N. Little Rock

**July 11-15, 2009:** Churchwide PW Gathering, Louisville, Kentucky. For more information, visit: [www.pcusa.org/pwgathering](http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering).

## Men's Association

### Amazing technicolor quilts

Claire Rhodes has made quilting a work of pleasure. She will show many of her quilts and discuss their background at the March 20 Presbyterian Men's Association meeting in Hoffius Hall.

Claire, a member of the Kirk and Commissioned Lay Pastor at the West End Presbyterian church in Arkadelphia, is well known for her quilts with many different designs and sizes. She also makes quilts for special occasions. Her presentation will help quilters and would-be-quilters.

Ladies are invited. Invite your neighbor or friend who may be interested in quilting. Coffee, donuts and juice will be served 7:30-8 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9 a.m.

## OCC director Bryant spoke at Mission Committee meeting



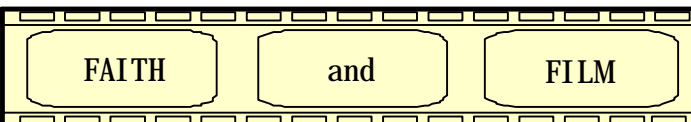
Dottie Isaacson, Mission Committee moderator (left) and Debbie Bryant of Ouachita Children's Center

## Center helps children and families with emergency shelter, treatment

Debbie Bryant, executive director of Ouachita Children's Center was guest speaker at the February Kirk Mission Committee meeting.

Bryant shared some of the center's experiences and needs. The OCC provides 24-hour emergency shelter and treatment for dependent neglected children eight to seventeen 17 years of age and families. Adolescent drug abuse prevention information, referrals for individual and family therapy, respite care and parent support groups are also provided.

The center's goal is to return the youth to his or her community and family or find an appropriate residence.



## "Lord of the Rings"

The film for the Faith and Film class on March 11 will be "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."

The discussion, led by Pastor Bill Bailey, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Hoffius Hall.

The critically acclaimed film is based on the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien. Directed by Peter Jackson, the movie chronicles the adventures of a young hobbit named Frodo (portrayed by Elijah Wood) as his fellowship of friends and allies embark on a desperate journey to rid the earth of the source of Sauron's greatest strength, the One Ring. This ring has the power to enslave all the inhabitants of Middle Earth.

Those who wish to participate in the discussion should view the movie before attending the class. A copy is available in our Kirk Library and may be checked out, but members are urged to return it quickly so others may borrow it, too.

We hope you will join us for an interesting and thought provoking discussion.

## MISSION DOLLARS

**Thank you** for generously supporting our Mission Dollars campaign. \$897 was collected for the month of January, 2009.

## A special guest and two birthdays, 492 years apart, were recognized at the annual All-Church Dinner

By MARGERY McINTOSH

Presbyterian Kirk of the Pines members gathered for their annual All-Church Dinner February 9 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church.

This dinner tradition began in 1982, before the Kirk was built, when 106 members held their first dinner at Christ Lutheran Church on Ponferrado Way.

A surprise guest was introduced before this year's dinner by Ruth Hamilton. The guest was Reformer, Pastor and Theologian John Calvin (1509-1564), whose 500th birthday is celebrated by Protestants this year.

Reformer John Calvin arrived in 16th century pastoral attire and was portrayed by Kirk pastor, Bill Bailey.

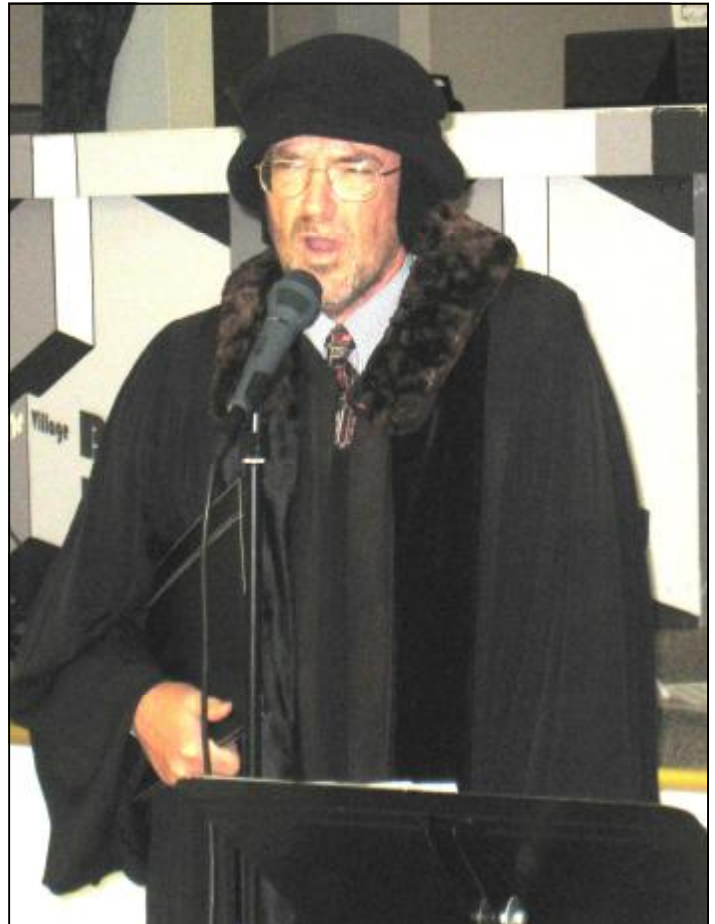
Valentine centerpieces adorned the tables with ceramic figurines made by Shirley Pegler for door prizes and individual bags of John Calvin's "Geneva-style Trail Mix for the Journey."

The Village Big Band, under the direction of Bill Morgan, played favorite tunes for listening and dancing with vocals by Pat Hightower and David Major.

Elijah Bailey was called to the stage by Pat Hightower to recognize his eighth birthday. Pat led the singing of "Happy Birthday" to the accompaniment of the Big Band. Elijah is the grandson of Anne and Pastor Bill Bailey.

Master of Ceremonies, Larry Stewart, recognized visitors, Kirk staff and many members for their dedicated work in the Kirk. Dinner for the 192 people in attendance was catered by Ramona's Kitchen.

In charge of the event were Fellowship moderator, Ruth Hamilton and committee members Carol and



**John Calvin made a surprise appearance at the Kirk's annual dinner. Calvin, portrayed by Pastor Bill Bailey, was born 500 years ago. (Dennis Zymboly photo)**

Gary Clark, Debbie and Jim Cordell, Sharon and Lowell Gardner, Jane Harless, Joyce and Paul Hayek, Jerral Johnson, Edie and Don Loveday, Diana Milligan, Gerry Quick, Evva Russell, Bob Smith, Carolyn Starr, Judy and Larry Stewart and Rhonie Zymboly.



**2009 All-Church Dinner photos** →



Photos by Bruce McIntosh, Madelyn Young and Dennis Zymboly.



# March

<p><b>1</b>  <b>Communion Service</b>  <b>10 a.m. Worship Service</b>  <b>8:45 Discussion Group</b>  <b>9:00 Adult Focus Class</b></p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>9:30 PW CT</b>  <b>9:30 FOCUS</b>  <b>1:00 Staff Meeting</b>  <b>2:00 Communication</b>          6:00 Village Chorale          7:00 AA</p>	<p><b>3</b>          8 a.m. TOPS          10:00 Men's Cooking          1:30 Big Band  <b>2:00 Memorial Com.</b>          6:00 Cub Scouts</p>
<p><b>8</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>  <b>8:45 Discussion Group</b>  <b>9:00 Adult Focus Class</b>  <b>11:00 Greenhorns</b></p> <p><i>Daylight Savings Time</i></p> 	<p><b>9</b>  <b>9:00 Greenhorns</b>  <b>9:30 FOCUS</b>  <b>11:00 PW Gathering</b>          6:00 Village Chorale          7:00 AA</p>	<p><b>10</b>          8 a.m. TOPS  <b>10:30 Greenhorns</b>  <b>1:00 Session</b>          1:30 Big Band          6:00 Cub Scouts</p>
<p><b>15</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>  <b>8:45 Discussion Group</b>  <b>9:00 Adult Focus Class</b></p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Congregational Care</b>  <b>3:00 Worship Committee</b>          6:00 Village Chorale          7:00 AA</p>	<p><b>17</b>          8 a.m. TOPS  <b>9:00 Informal Worship Com</b>  <b>9:30 Stewardship</b>  <b>10:30 Greenhorns</b>          11:00 Ministerial Assoc.          1:30 p.m. Big Band          6:00 Cub Scouts</p> 
<p><b>22</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>  <b>8:45 Discussion Group</b>  <b>9:00 Adult Focus Class</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. Administration</b>          6:00 p.m. Village Chorale          7:00 AA  <b>7:00 Kirk Konnection</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>          8:00 a.m. TOPS          1:30 p.m. Big Band          6:00 Cub Scouts</p>
<p><b>29</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>  <b>8:45 Discussion Group</b>  <b>9:00 Adult Focus Class</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>2:00 p.m. Communication</b>          6:00 Village Chorale          7:00 AA</p>	<p><b>31</b>          8 a.m. TOPS          1:30 Big Band          6:00 Cub Scouts</p>

# 2009

<p><b>4</b> 10 a.m. Embroidery Guild <b>11:00 Lenten Service &amp; soup lunch</b> 1:00 p.m. Symphony Guild Board #1 <b>3:00 Education Com.</b> <b>4:00 Kirk Choir</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>9:00 Fellowship Com</b> <b>9:00 Christian Faith</b> <b>10:00 Bell Choir</b> 7:00 chanticleers</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>9:30 FOCUS</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>5:00 Informal Worship</b></p>
<p><b>11</b> 10:00 Symphony Guild 2 <b>11:00 Lenten Service &amp; soup lunch</b> <b>4:00 Kirk Choir</b> <b>6:30 Faith &amp; Film</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>9:00 Christian Faith</b> <b>10:00 Bell Choir</b> <b>3:00 Mission Committee</b> 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>9:30 FOCUS</b> 12:00 Cursillo Training</p>	<p><b>14</b> 12:00 Cursillo Training <b>5:00 Informal Worship</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> <b>11:00 Lenten Service &amp; soup lunch</b> 2:30 Heifer Project <b>4:00 Kirk choir</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>9:00 Christian Faith</b> 9:30 Potter's Clay <b>10:00 Bell Choir</b> <b>2:00 Planning &amp; Coordinating</b> 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>7:30 a.m. Men's Association</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>5:00 Informal Worship</b></p>
<p><b>25</b> <b>11:00 Lenten Service &amp; soup lunch</b> <b>4:00 Kirk Choir</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>9:00 Christian Faith</b> <b>10:00 Bell Choir</b> <b>2:00 Gardening w/s</b> 7:00 Chanticleers</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>5:00 Informal Worship</b></p>

## Lenten Services each Wednesday in March



**Pastor Bill Bailey (right) and Associate Pastor Don Trent officiated at the first of six Lenten worship services on Ash Wednesday, February 25.**

Lenten services continue at 11 a.m. each Wednesday through March with our retired pastors in the Kirk delivering devotions as part of the 40-day season of preparation for Easter.

Conducting the services will be:

March 4	—	Reverend Don Trent
March 11	—	Reverend Victor Brown
March 18	—	Reverend Dave Nottrott
March 25	—	Dr. Heinrich Eiler
April 1	—	Reverend Ernie Smith

The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter -- the day our Lord rose from the dead. Let us join with Christians all over the world in reflection and spiritual preparation during this season of Lent. Guests are welcome.

Soup lunches are served in Hoffius Hall after each Lenten service. A sign-up sheet for providing soup and/or bread is included in the Sunday bulletins. Ten to 12 crock pots of soup are needed each week, so make plans to bring your favorite.

## Barb Greenman says February trip to “PAM conference was a wonderful experience

*Kirk organist and handbell assistant, Barbara Greenman, attended the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) conference in Austin, Texas, February 5-8. The following are some of the highlights Barb shared:*

The theme of this year’s conference was “Worship as Formation: Forming Faithful Disciples.” Some interesting observations include:

- As musicians, we have a responsibility to engage the congregation (assembly) in meaningful song.
- More Christians are converted by hymn singing than any other means!
- Alzheimer’s patients who may have lost all cognitive function often have the ability to sing hymns and songs learned in childhood.
- What we sing, dance, proclaim, pray and how we listen are ingredients in worship that promote discipleship.

“A workshop highlight for me was an improvisation class led by Dr. Gerre Hancock, one of America’s most highly acclaimed concert organists and choral directors. The conference was a great opportunity for renewal of purpose and inspiration for all participants. We heard plenary addresses by Paul Westermeyer, Professor of Church Music, Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN; David Eicher, editor of the Presbyterian Hymnal Project; and Hal Hopson, composer. A magnificent Hymn Festival was held on Friday evening and an organ recital by Gerre Hancock on Saturday evening. The hospitality and expertise shown to us by Scott McNulty, organist, and Ara Carapetyan, music director, at host University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX, was outstanding.

“I sincerely appreciate the opportunity and encouragement of the Kirk which enabled me to attend this conference. Thank you.”

— Barb Greenman

# In step and up-to-date with the Membership Committee

By SHERRY BAREFIELD

The “official” purpose of this group is: To challenge and help new members gain full participation in the life of the church and to assist them in getting acquainted. Monitor attendance of members in worship and follow up appropriately. Coordinate publication of the pictorial directory with the Communications Committee.

This is a big job and members of the Kirk can help with this task by seeking out these new members, introducing themselves and others! This is a large church and anything we can do to make them feel “at home and among friends” quickly is a plus. This interaction between the congregation and its new members follows a portion of the Kirk’s mission statement “... to sharing the love of God through nurture and service to others.”

After the Evangelism committee does its work securing new members, the Membership Committee want us all to welcome them, of course. After new members go before the Session to join the Kirk, a member of Membership takes them on a tour of the building and grounds to acquaint them with their new church home.

New members are assigned a “host” who makes sure the incoming member is aware of all of the opportunities for participation including Shepherd Group programs, Men’s and Women’s Associations, potluck/summer suppers, Bible Studies and Faith & Film nights.

The host’s commitment includes phone calls, visits, assistance with transportation and offers of companionship to various functions. Getting to know these new members is a joy and a blessing not only for the host but for the congregation as well.

Monitoring attendance is another committee responsibility we will touch on at a later date, but for



**Hardworking Membership Committee members are (from left) Jane Vance, Rhonie Zymboly, Ruth Fox, Bruce McIntosh, June Stevens, Alan Harless, Marilyn Johnson, Theresa Nottrott, moderator, and June Kuefler. Not pictured are Sally Hess, Jerral Johnson, Carolyn Starr, Helen VanStone, Ellen Weber and Kelle Wolf.**

now be sure to sign those red attendance books each church service, please.

Moderator Theresa Nottrott said the group meets quarterly on the fourth Tuesday morning plus “as needed.” If you would like to serve on this committee, email Theresa at [nottrott@att.net](mailto:nottrott@att.net) or call 915-9963.

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A cabin at Ferncliff was named for Janie and Ted Smith in honor of their 10 years of dedicated service to the camp. They were presented with a name plaque for the building at the Feb. 6 annual dinner. Pastor Bill Bailey (right) and several members of the Kirk attended and extended their congratulations. (Suzanne Cain photo)



# “How can we believe in a God of love in a world like this one?”

By MADELYN YOUNG

Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Chandler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, addressed this provocative question during the annual Midwinter Lectures at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines on January 26-27.

To begin the series, Dr. Long told a gripping story. On November 1, 1755, faithful parishioners in Lisbon, Portugal, gathered in their cathedrals to joyfully celebrate All Saints Day. Suddenly, a mighty earthquake began to rumble and shake everything in the city. Roofs and walls came crashing down, killing thousands at worship and others in the streets. Fires erupted and burned out of control. Miles from shore, the shifting earth created a huge tsunami which poured inland. Men, women and children, who had rushed to the water to escape the flames, were swept away. Between 10,000 and 60,000 people died that day.

The horrific news spread quickly. People cried, Why did this happen? Why would God wipe out the city of Lisbon? Their citizens were some of the most pious in Europe. But they must have displeased God. Some Protestants declared it was because these people were “Catholic sinners” -- more ammunition for religious battles already raging between Lutheran Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Others questioned the authority of any religious group to explain such catastrophes. The Age of Enlightenment was dawning, and some men relied on reason to be their guide. Natural disasters occurred because of scientific principles, they said. They would affirm only what could be proven by experience. Was there even a God? “We doubt it,” was their response.

In America, secularism and agnosticism grew in response to overwhelming death during the Civil War and the Holocaust during World War II. Recent events on 9/11 and in the Katrina disaster have led many others to reexamine their beliefs.



**Dr. Tom Long, Presbyterian scholar, author and educator (left), visits with Kirk member Ray Jacobsmeier during the Midwinter Lectures.**

Through all of this, Presbyterians have affirmed four “truths,” said Dr. Long:

1. God exists.
2. God is good and loving.
3. God is omnipotent, all powerful.
4. Innocent suffering is a reality.

But how can we hold to these ideas when they do not seem to be compatible?

Some believers say God is omnipotent, but He “allows” the laws of Nature to occur and also gives humans the freedom to harm or help their fellowmen. But this view seems to call into question the goodness of a God who would stand back.

Others say God is not all powerful. Instead, He is in the “process” of creating a world where good will eventually overcome evil. God is good, and He works through us and provides grace for us. However, this view seems to portray God as a partner or friend, but not as a god we can worship.

On Tuesday morning, Dr. Long led the group to examine what the Bible has to say.

(See “Long” continued on page 13)

(“Long” continued from page 12)

In the Book of Job, God is portrayed as allowing Satan, the “accuser,” to torment Job, a righteous man who loves and worships God.

When disaster strikes, Job’s friends come to tell him to repent and stop complaining against God. But Job refuses to be dishonest about his feelings. He is being punished unjustly, he says, and he rebukes God.

God listens to Job but presents Himself in perspective to human beings. Where was Job when God created the world? Finally, Job realizes he must be content to be a human being. He can not know the mind of God. The Book of Job ends with God restoring a new life for Job with even more blessings than before.

In Psalm 77, the psalmist laments his suffering, but then he recalls God’s past deeds of mercy, especially in the Exodus from Egypt. God’s “footprints” were unseen as He led them “through the sea” and He also worked through the hands of others to save them.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a parable of weeds growing with the wheat -- evil exists among the good in this world. Did God intend the weeds to grow? No. As servants, we can help eradicate the weeds, but we cannot fix the problem. At the harvest, the wheat will be saved, and the weeds -- everything that destroys human life -- will be burned away.

Today, Christians are once again called to answer these questions: Can we believe that God exists? Can we affirm that God is Love? Can we trust God to know what is right and wrong? Can we accept our place as part of His creation?

Humbly, by the grace of God, we can respond, Yes, Lord. In life and in death, I am yours.

**Need a ride? If you require transportation to medical appointments or to visit a loved one in the hospital, call Larry Bradley at the Kirk office, 922-1333 or Martha Fast at 922-0848.**



## Gardening ... From Alpha to Omega

### Garvan Gardens tour planned

We will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19 in the small upper parking lot at the Kirk and carpool to the Garvan Woodland Gardens. Our rain date is March 20. If you’d like to join us, call Jerral Johnson at 922-6641.

### Snake!

Guest speaker, Julie Thorp, park interpreter at Lake Catherine State Park, will talk about “Snakes in the Garden” at 2 p.m. March 26, when gardeners meet in Hoffius Hall.

Julie’s love of insects, reptiles, birds and critters began as a child growing up in the country. Her extensive background includes working with the National Park Service as an interpreter and teaching Environmental Education to fifth grade students in Texas. She has been at Lake Catherine since April, 2006.

“Snakes in Arkansas” is one of her most requested programs. Those who work in their yard and flower gardens will find this program enlightening. Join us for this workshop from 2-3:30 p.m. in Hoffius Hall. Visitors are welcome.

### Sign up now for next Ladies’ Bridge Marathon

The fourth Monday, September through April, 24 Kirk ladies meet to play rubber bridge. An interest in playing has been expressed by several ladies and we would like to expand to make this possible. To do so we need 8 additional players.

Any Kirk lady interested in playing Bridge Marathon beginning in September, 2009, please call Wilma Reed, 922-3498, or Vianne Huff at 922-4624 and sign up.

If you have a partner it would be helpful to call both names in at the same time.



# BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



Mar 1 Wayne Florey  
June Simmer  
Mar 4 George Bauman  
Mar 6 Marjorie Easley  
Ruth Hanson  
Hogan Pelton  
Mar 7 Alan Harless  
Vernon Plueckhahn  
Mar 8 Stanley Dean  
Joyce Hayek  
Mar 9 Marguerite Arras  
Duane Sonnenburg  
John Wright  
Mar 11 Patricia Cave  
David Hamilton  
Jean Hardin  
Meredith Jones  
Gayle Oglesby  
Cleo Pipkin

Mar 12 Dave Singleton  
Mar 13 Fay Woodall  
Mar 14 Connie Green  
Mar 16 Ann Hill  
Rita Martick  
Patricia Poole  
Mar 17 Michael Hoagland  
Donald Robosson  
Kelle Wolf  
Mar 18 Robert Ammann  
Mar 19 Wes Hardin  
Wendell Hepner  
Mar 20 Gloria Groves  
Mar 21 Kay Stone  
Muriel Wilde  
Mar 23 David Salmen  
Mar 25 Paul Hayek  
Mar 26 John Weber

Mar 28 Vianne Huff  
Mar 28 Robert Webster  
Mar 29 Jean Reitzammer  
Mar 30 Stan Fast  
Karen Knox

<b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</b>
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Mar 1 Jerry/Elizabeth Devon  
Mar 6 Jack/Beverly Bullard  
Mar 8 Ted/Beverly Mueller  
Mar 10 Jim/Betty Jo Judy  
Jim/Sue Thayer  
Mar 14 Kenneth/Claire Rhodes  
Mar 16 Calvin/Nita Sloma  
Mar 17 Frank/June Moore  
Mar 20 Jim/Della Reimers  
Mar 24 Reg/Daphne Mooney  
Cy/Pete Porter  
Mar 28 Bob/Vianne Huff

## *Puzzle answers: Finding the 30 books of the Bible in this story*

There are 30 books of the Bible in this article. It is (a mos)t re(mark)able puzzle found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu (lu ke)eping him occupied for hours.

He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to his friends. One from Illinois worked on it while fishing from his (john) boat. Another friend studied it while playing the ban(jo. EL)aine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend (judges) the (job) of solving the puzzle so involving, s(he brews) a cup of tea to help her nerv(es. Ther)e are some names are very easy to spot. That's a f(act). Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a (jam, es)pecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

T(ruth)fully, f(rom ans)wers we get, we are forced to adm(t it us)ually takes a minister or scholar to see some of the (m at the w)orst. Research has shown something in our (genes is) responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in the paragraph.

During a recent fund-raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta (Phi lemon)ade booth set a news sales record. The local paper, The (Chronicle), surveyed over 200 patrons who reported this puzzle to be one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As (Daniel) Huma(na hum)bly puts it, the books are right there in plain view hidden from sight. T(hose a)ble to find them all will hear great (lamentations) from those who have to be shown.

One (revelation) that may help is that books like (Timothy) and (Samuel) may occur without their (numbers). Also keep in mind, punctuation and spaces in the middle are nor(mal. A chi)pper attitude will help com(pete r)eally well against those who claim to know all the answers.

Remember, there is no need for a mad (exodus). There really are 30 books of the Bible lur(king s)omewhere in this article, waiting to be found.

## Dear Kirk Friends:

### Thanks for your support

Many thanks to my kind Kirk friends for their support during my recent surgery. The Congregational Care committee and Greenhorns provided a delicious meal; numerous friends sent on-going meals, abundant cards and words of encouragement.

Thank you for including me on the on the prayer chain and a special thanks to my Kirk "angel."

I feel very blessed to be a part of this caring Church.

— Judy Stewart

### Thank you for the figurines!

The Fellowship Committee would like to offer a big thank you to Shirley Peglar and Bill and Joanne Rich for making the lovely ceramic figurines that were used as door prizes at the All Kirk Dinner.

Shirley kindly donated them to us to use as centerpieces on the tables, and lucky winners at each table got to go home with them. They were appreciated by all.

— Ruth Hamilton and  
the Fellowship Committee

### Dear Friends,

Mary Anne and I want to express our sincere appreciation for all of your cards, calls, visits and food during this difficult time. Our thanks also to the efforts of the Greenhorns for their very nice meals.

We have certainly missed attending Sunday services and visiting with all of you.

Thank you for your love and support.

—Gerald and Mary Anne Wood

### Dear Kirk friends,

This is the warmest and most caring church membership I have ever been associated with. I thank each of you so very much for the cards, emails, phone calls and visits during my recovery from a heart attack last month. It was very heart warming to hear from you and to see you.

Thank you again for caring.

--- Bob Rosenthal

### Focus class says "thanks"

Vision loss is difficult at any age, but the impact of blindness or low vision can seem greater when people experience it as an adult. They were able to see for most of their lives, and it is understandable that they to feel overwhelmed, depressed, or even angry when the doctor tells them that they have an incurable eye disease or disorder. Many people experience these feelings, especially during the early stages of vision loss. They may have many questions without easy answers.

The purpose of the FOCUS class is to help individuals learn about resources, information, and the support they need to regain their independence. I am happy to report that ten energetic class members enrolled in the FOCUS class on February second. The class members are from several different churches: Kirk in the Pines, Christ Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, Christ of the Hills United Methodist, Village United Methodist Church and Christian Mission Connection (Good Samaritan Chapel.)

The teachers and I thank the Kirk in the Pines for the use of Hoffius Hall. Thanks, also, to the Hot Springs Village Breakfast Lions who are providing transportation for class members and are helping during the class periods.

— Nancy Otto

### Dear Kirk Friends,

Thank you for your kind notes, calls and comments and your support at the Ferncliff Board Dinner. It was a delightful evening and you were a large part of that.

We were honored to have a cabin named for us.

If all goes well, we invite you to come see us at "Fernhaven" this summer.

—Ted and Janie Smith

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## NEWSLETTER and BULLETIN DEADLINES

The next newsletter deadline is March 15. Email to Joyce Leeming at [JBL37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JBL37@sbcglobal.net).

The Sunday bulletin deadline is on Wednesday each week. E-mail [kirk1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kirk1@sbcglobal.net).

## Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

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Nonprofit Organization

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**Informal Worship,**

**Saturday— 5 p.m.**

**Sunday Worship,**

**10 a.m.**

*A VOICE IN THE PINES* is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines

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

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

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

**PFC Adam Sandifer**, grandson-in-law of Tom & Ethelee Beverly, Kuwait

**Christopher Kotz**, nephew of Bob & Judy Corwin, Iraq, 14th Marine Regiment

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

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

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



### Kirk Staff

Bill Bailey — Senior Pastor

Don Trent — Pastoral Associate

Larry Bradley — Minister of Music

Janie Smith — Visitation Coordinator

Barbara Greenman — Organist/Secretary

Sallie Huss — Secretary

Barbara Myers — Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg — Financial Secretary

Cole Goodman — Sexton

Teresa Goodman — Assistant Sexton