

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume LI, March 2024

Many in need helped by Kirk's generosity

"I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." So says Psalm 140:12. The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines congregation has been the Lord's instrument through your generous giving and through the work of our Missions Committee. The committee takes the responsibility of allocating and distributing the gifts you have donated prayerfully and with a great sense of gratitude for your gifts.

Led by Moderator Judith Rosenthal the committee's work is supported by the following members: John Davis, Barb Henry, Daryl Henry, Bruce Dale, Marcia Bauer, Nancy Patton, Richard McPheters, Bob Morrow, Norma Stevens, and Secretary, Becky Wakefield.

Roughly a quarter of the Kirk's total annual budget is usually set aside for mission work. This is by far the largest discretionary part of the budget. In 2023 this money provided funding for 25 different programs or agencies. These funds come from 6 Session approved accounts. These are the Congregational Mission Fund, \$1.00 Mission Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Luke 12:48 Endowment Fund, the International Mission Fund, and the Special Projects Fund.

Compared to 2022, less money was available in 2023 to share with our neighbors in need, 43% less to be exact. A total of \$41,864 was distributed to missions and agencies that have been traditionally supported by the Kirk. Eleven received \$1000 or more representing about 80% of these funds. These included Ferncliff,



Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Samaritan Ministries, Meals on Wheels, Jackson House, Arkansas Food Bank, Project Hope Food Bank, Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinics, Potter's Clay, Village Churches Mission, and Lyon College.

As in 2022, the committee continued its focus on food, shelter, children and families, and health. And what about the "Dollars for Missions" collected in the offering plate each Sunday? These totaled \$4,838 and went in equal amounts to Ferncliff, Lyon College, the

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
4 p.m. In Hoffius Hall

Wednesday Bible Study
9-10:30 a.m. Hoffius Hall



For more meeting times see
www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar



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Presbyterian Church USA, Frontier Ministries, the University of the Ozarks, Vera Lloyd, and West End Presbyterian Church. International Fund dollars went primarily to the Haiti Educational Foundation, Heifer International, Solar Under the Sun, and Living Waters of the World. As is our usual practice, two thirds of Luke 12:48 Endowment fund distribution went to the Missions Committee with one third going to the Christian Education committee. Luke 12:48 endowment funds that went to Missions were equally divided between Vera Lloyd and Ferncliff.

Remaining budgeted funds went to a variety of other missions and agencies. You should know the Missions Committee distributed all your gifts to those organizations representing our brothers and sisters in need with a zero-fund balance at the end of the year. Also, all the recipients of your gifts

expressed heart-felt gratitude for your loving generosity.

All of us who serve on the Mission Committee are deeply grateful to be able to faithfully share the love of God expressed through your gifts with the agencies in our community. The prophet Isaiah (58:10) reminds us that as God's agents of justice "if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday!" Although we may have been challenged by fewer dollars to spend in 2023, our hope and prayer is that your giving found its way to those who are in greatest need.

Gratefully,

The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Mission Committee

Symbolism of Holy Week speaks of sacrifice, grief, and overwhelming joy

Holy Week is the culmination of the forty days of lent. The holiest week of the Christian year begins with Palm Sunday. On March 24th the 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday worship service will feature palms in the chancel, symbolic of the palms strewn on the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem. The purple parament (runner), placed on the communion table at the start of lent, and the purple banners will remain in place until Easter Sunday. This service will be a preparation for the drama of Maundy Thursday, where Jesus joined his disciples for the Last Supper.

The somber Maundy Thursday service will be held at 5:30 p.m. March 28, and will feature the traditional Tenebrae service with music, scripture, and the celebration of Holy Communion. There will be seven lit purple candles on the communion table, being extinguished, one by one, as the sanctuary darkens. At the end of the service the congregation will leave in darkness and silence.

Easter is the triumphant celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The worship service will be on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 10:00 a.m. On this day the purple banners and parament will be changed to white and Easter lilies will adorn the chancel. The grief-stricken mood of Good Friday will be transformed to one of joyous celebration. Both the choir and the congregation will sing out in Jesus' triumph over death.

What began as a contemplative exercise of the forty days of Lent, then moved to the devastation of Jesus' death on the cross, crescendos into a day of pure joy as Christians around the world celebrate the grace of God, the God who gave his only son to save us. Glory be to God!

Contributed by Dotty Rector, Communications Committee member

Lenten Worship Leaders Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.

March 6 Anne Bailey-- Coins
March 13 Ben Meek-- Shoes
March 20 Martha Nielsen—Oil

Remember to sign up to attend Lenten lunches of soup and bread each in Hoffius Hall immediately following Lenten worship.

Sign- up forms will be available in the worship bulletin. Place the form in the offering plate.
Questions? Call Pat Kuntz- (501) 204-4385

Sunday Worship Leaders

March 3 Rev. Brad Thornton
March 10 Rev. Lance Jones
March 17 Rev. Carl McCormack
March 24 Palm Sunday Rev. Carl McCormack
March 28 Maundy Thursday Rev. Tom Wisdom
March 31 Easter Rev. Stewart Smith
Saturday Informal Worship
Rev. Bill Seitz

Music to span wide range of emotions during Holy Week

In our recent study of hymns, we learned about the popularity of songbooks of Southern folk hymns during the 1800's. The books served a growing number of churchgoers that wanted to learn to sing. Hymns in these books have found a regular place in worship services of many churches, including the Kirk.

Publishers found that singers readily accepted hymn texts set to familiar secular tunes. Setting out into the wilderness of the Ohio Valley and the Shenandoah Valley, they heard tunes in dance halls, saloons, and in homes sung with great fervor. Three 19th century songbooks, *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Songs*, *Southern Harmony*, and *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, included songs that we have sung in recent months, such as *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, *My Song in the Night*, and *Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*.

The week of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday is a roller-coaster of worship emotions. On Palm Sunday, expectations of our Savior's overthrow of earthly tyrants soar. We will sing hymns like *Hosanna*,



Loud Hosanna and Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!
The choir will sing a delightful arrangement of *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, by Molly Ijames.

The elation of Palm Sunday gives way to the darkening mood of Maundy Thursday. Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service is one of deep emotion and feeling as we contemplate the reality of Christ's crucifixion. The service of darkness concludes as the final candle is extinguished. In addition to the congregational hymn selections, the choir will sing a moving anthem by Lloyd Larson called *Dark Gethsemane*, and will be joined by violinist Kathy Ogilvie for *Arise, My Soul, Arise*.

Easter Sunday is the holiest day of the year, concluding the emotional journey of the week. The choir always circles this date because we want to prepare something special and bring our best. *Thine Be the Glory* is a glorious anthem set by one of our favorites, Dan Forrest. Joining us will be a brass quintet and percussion. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Contributed by Randy Toney, Kirk Director of Music



A large audience enjoyed learning the diverse history of hymns from early Christianity to the present. Music Director Randy Toney and Pianist/Organist Donna Toney were the entertaining tag team leaders of this one of a kind course. *Bob Morrow photo*

Hymn Study attracted many Kirk members and visitors

With enthusiastic crowds which numbered consistently in the mid-forties, Kirk members and guests participated in Randy and Donna Toney's four-week study "Hymns in the New World". Brought to us by the Christian Education Committee, this program was very well received. There were several guests from other churches, also eager to learn. We are so fortunate to have this dynamic duo share with us their considerable knowledge of music.

*Contributed by Dotty Rector,
Communications Committee member*



Donna Toney put an interesting spin on Presidents of the United States, their families, their faith, and their favorite hymns. *Susan Pendergrass photo*

Talented couple to perform at the Kirk

The HS/HSV Symphony Guild is delighted to present Haeshin Shin (piano) and Jacob Wunsch (cello) in concert at the Kirk in the Pines as part of our new Classic Series. The concert will be on Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 3 pm and will be followed by a meet and greet reception. General admission tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance on the Guild website by registering for the event (<https://symphonyguild.org/event-5463464>). Tickets will also be available at the door.



Pianist Haeshin Shin has appeared in solo recitals, competitions, chamber concerts, and festivals throughout the United States, Russia, UK, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Puerto Rico, China, and Korea. Ms. Shin holds a BM degree from Seoul National University (Cum Laude), and MM and DMA degrees from Boston University. In 2022, she joined Arkansas State University as a collaborative pianist.

Cellist Jacob Wunsch joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and its Rockefeller String Quartet in the fall of 2019. Actively involved in or-

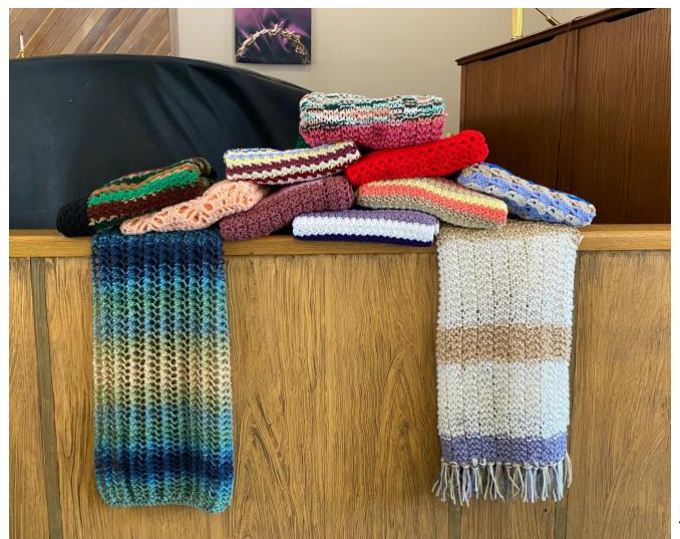
chestral performance, chamber music, and music education, he has made concert appearances across the United States, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Italy, Austria, and South Korea.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Wunsch began cello studies at age four. He received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University and the University of Michigan respectively.

Submitted by Susan Morrow, Communications Committee member



Two dozen prayer shawls were dedicated during worship February 25th. These beautiful knitted and crocheted shawls were created by talented members of the Kirk for patients at local hospices.



Samaritan Ministries

Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs (a rescue mission for homeless men) truly appreciates your support in 2023.

It is because of your gifts that we are able to help those that are hungry, homeless and often forgotten.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you for your willingness to care and share and to assist with conquering the causes of homelessness in our community.

*In His service to others,
Jan Laggan*

Mission agencies say “thank you” to the Kirk family

Ferncliff

Thank you, friends, for your gift to support the ministries and programs of Ferncliff.

Your gifts make our work possible, including our camp programs for kids. Did you know that over 75% of our campers have their registration fee subsidized or receive scholarship funds?

Your generosity is so appreciated and makes a difference to the kids that we serve and the guests we welcome.

*Appreciatively,
Joel Cory Gill*

Project Hope Food Bank

Together we are making a profound impact on the lives of those who would otherwise go without.

Your commitment to our mission to combat food insecurity is not only appreciated, but essential in creating a brighter and more secure future for the seniors, children and the families we serve.

We want to express our deepest appreciation for your support.

*With sincere gratitude,
Becky Choate
Assistant Director*

Jackson House

We want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for the positive impact and outstanding contributions you have made through Jackson House to our community.

Together we have been able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve here in Hot Springs.

*Tammy Jones
Assistant Director*

H.U.G.S. offers help for grieving Kirk members

H.U.G. Share is a newly formed grief support group at the Kirk. H.U.G.S. is an acronym for Healing, Understanding, Gathering, and Sharing. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Smallman Parlor.

The members of the group have elected to participate in a study of the book *“It’s OK That You’re Not OK.”* Carol Clark, Kirk Congregational Care Coordinator, is the facilitator for the group.

In addition to the book study, the group will participate socially in planned outings and activities during the year.

If a Kirk member has recently suffered a loss and would like to join the group, please contact Carol Clark at 501-915-8497.



The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
a simple reminder to me
of the fact that I am a Christian
no matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic.
Nor is a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.

It's not for identification
for all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
between my Savior and me.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
instruction, good and true
to love our friends and enemies
and love our Savior, too.

When I put my hand in my pocket
to bring out a coin or key
the Cross is there to remind me
of the price that he paid for me.

It reminds me too to be thankful
for my blessings day by day
and to strive to serve Him better
in all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
of the peace and comfort I share
with all who know my Master
and give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket
reminding no one but me
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
if only I'll let him be.

Verna Thomas

The Pastor's Corner

Editor's note: This "Pastor's Corner" was written by Pastor Bailey and published in the April 2022 newsletter. In his absence, we are repeating this timeless message here with relevant dates and comments updated by the editor.

Presbyterians at the Kirk will join almost a billion Christians all over the world and celebrate Easter this March 31st. We will have triumphant music with hymns and strong hallelujahs. We will certainly hear a sermon that is inspirational. All of us will give thanks to the one who has conquered death and who promises life eternal.

Easter reminds us that we need not be afraid of death. We can live our lives with joy and hope, trusting that our futures belong to a God who raises the dead. "Christ died, was buried and has been raised!" So, the church confesses, and so we believe—this is our hope.

It is also important to remember that Easter is not just a single day in the church's liturgical calendar. For us, Easter is a season—the seven Sundays of Easter extending until Pentecost, May 19th this year.

For the earliest Christians, as well as for us today, every Sunday—indeed, every day-- is a celebration



Pastor Bill Bailey

of the new life we share in Christ. Every day is an occasion for us to offer thankful praise for our Lord's gift of life.

It is my hope that your faith and hope will be renewed in this season of Easter. And, as we gather to worship this Easter Sunday, you will be greeted with these ancient words: "Hallelujah, Christ is risen!" And you will respond with Christians all over the world, "Christ is risen, indeed!"

Glory to God, Bill

Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship applications accepted through June 30!

Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 academic year are being received currently until June 30, 2024. Applicants must be members/employees or families of members/employees of Presbyterian Kirk in The Pines for a minimum of three years. The applicant must have proof of registration at an accredited State University/College, Presbyterian Church USA university or an accredited trade school before the fall academic semester.

The Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship Fund was initially established with a contribution of \$30,000 by

Kirk member Pat Ormsbee in honor of her late first husband Kenneth Maack. The fund is held at Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The scholarship is administered by a sub-committee of the Christian Education committee of the Kirk in The Pines. Applications and more information may be obtained from the church office or by contacting Susan Morrow 501-231-5541.

Contributed by Susan Morrow, Christian Education Committee member

At the February 9th Session meeting our Acting Moderator, Rev. Leslie Roper began with the reading of Chapter 12 from Paul's letter to the Romans, all 21 verses. In it, Paul shares his thoughts on how we should try to live as redeemed people of God. The reading was followed by a few moments of silence in the room until one of our insightful Elders spoke up and said, "I think now we all need to say a prayer of confession." It is a powerful scripture and I recommend it to you. I find it the perfect passage to accompany me as I walk through this Lenten period on my journey to the foot of the cross—a time for somber reflection and penitence.

I hope the midweek worship services followed by soup and bread lunches are adding to the meaning of your Lenten journey. We have moved past Ash Wednesday and are fast approaching Maundy Thursday; the evening Jesus shared his last supper with the disciples. Randy Toney, Donna, Toney and the choir are planning a special communion service for us at that time, one of scriptures and hymns portraying the passion of our Lord. And then on Easter morning the sanctuary will resound with glorious music and cries of "Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" Please allow me to speak for the Session and say to you in advance, "Happy Easter."

Highlights from the last session meeting are listed below.

Communion was held at the worship services on February 2 and 3, 2024. Communion was taken to Rita Martick on January 24, 2024, by Ruth Hamilton and Martha Nielsen.

Sharon Gardner will be the Kirk's representative to the March 1 & 2, 2024 Presbytery meeting at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville. Ruth Hamilton will accompany her.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Ken and Claire Rhodes asking to transfer their membership from the Kirk to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs. A motion was passed to grant their request.

Church Statistics: (as of February 9, 2024): Members: 221 Family Units: 150

Deaths: (since December 2023): Marilyn Olson, Date of Death 1/11/24

The Clerk's Corner

Ruth
Hamilton



Interments: Janna Lyndon and JoAnn Lyndon will be interred March 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m. in the Memorial Garden columbarium.

Committee Reports:

Administration: Dave Hamilton reported that ADCOM member Patty Barnes is learning how to use our existing accounting software and ADCOM will participate with FINCOM in a study of the most efficient options for new software. ADCOM is renewing its efforts to update the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Building: Bill Worthley reported that the Kirk went through the January cold weather without any problems. This was in part because of the additional insulation our Sexton, Chip Johnson, added around the water pipes.

Communication: Bob Morrow commented that the Communication Committee has started sending out weekly emails providing information to congregants about upcoming worship services. This has been well received by Kirk membership. We continue to work toward utilizing the Kirk Voice email for communication with the congregation.

Congregational Care: Susan Pendergrass shared that during the snow/ice weather an e-mail went out to the congregation offering to deliver food to those who were iced in and out of food supplies. No one responded. There have been 3 meetings of the grief share group "H.U.G. Share" and a book was chosen for a book study.

Christian Education: The Toney's exceptional hymnology class has attracted more than 40 participants for each of the first two sessions with

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some of them being visitors, Martha Nielsen reported. Notices in "About Town" helped attract some of these guests.

Fellowship: Pat Kuntz reported that the Fellowship Committee is on track for Lenten Bread and Soup Lunches. They have already gotten some response from the bulletin inserts and expect more. Planning is underway for future fellowship events in 2024.

Finance: Sharon Gardner reported that at their next meeting on February 29 the Finance Committee will discuss whether they want to move any of the IRS payroll tax refund money into the Endowment. She will bring her committee's thoughts to the next Session meeting. They will also be reviewing ParishSoft, a computer software, to determine its benefits as a single source for all office computing needs.

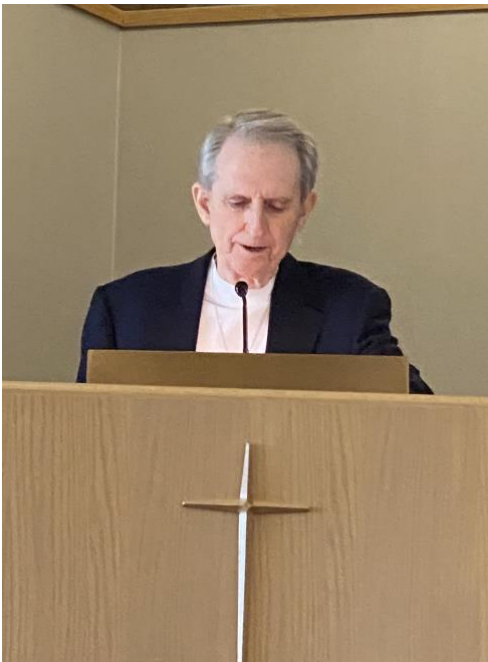
Grounds/Memorial: Priscilla Hayek shared that

"Lawn Doctor" is applying pre and post-emergent along Asturias to prevent weeds, etc. from growing and that she and Tom Hayek applied pre-emergent to the berm outside the office entrance as well as the Memorial Garden. Our tree expert, Huey Applegate will be thinning the Bradford Pear trees to prevent storm damage as well to keep them healthy. He will also trim branches that are close to or touching the church building.

Member Outreach: Ben Meek reported that the committee is still trying to get an alternate date to finish individual photos. (The date was subsequently set for February 2).

Mission: Judith Rosenthal distributed the list of the recipients of the Kirk's financial benevolences for 2023 for review. A motion was made and passed to approve the distribution of funds.

Worship: Gail Salmen reported that Lenten and Holy Week planning continues.



Ruling Elder and Lay Pastor Cyril Hollingsworth (above and right) led the Ash Wednesday service assisted by Priscilla Hayek (right). Jim Reimers (from left), Marty Davis, and Darell Fisher among others received imposition of ashes.

Bob Morrow photo

Traditional Ash Wednesday service first of Lent season observances



Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to Date: January 31, 2024

	Month		Year to Date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund				
Receipts	\$38,742	\$51,386	\$38,742	\$51,386
Disbursements	\$38,742	<u>\$27,059</u>	\$38,742	<u>\$27,059</u>
Difference		\$24,327		\$24,327

Endowment and Program Funds

Checking Balance \$125,572

Special Funds (December 31, 2023)

Memorial Fund	\$91,068
Choir Fund	\$10,463
Luke 12:48 Fund	\$293,246
Programs Fund	\$12,792
Endowment Fund	\$743,524
Maack-Ormsbee Fund	\$55,904
<u>Total Special Funds</u>	<u>\$1,206,997</u>

Total All Funds **\$1,332,569**

Mission Offering **\$183**



Pantry boxes need to be filled- - - by you!

Check out our pantry boxes in the narthex and in Hoffius Hall. They are rarely filled and often empty despite the acute need of many of our neighbors.

Please consider these brothers and sisters when you are shopping and pick up a few items for their table such as canned goods, cereal, or other non-perishable staples.



Happy dates



March Birthdays

6	Ray Bates	15	Vicki Rosenquist	19	Nancy Patton
8	Joyce Hayek	16	Lee Ann Hill	23	David Salmen
9	Duane Sonnenburg		Rita Martick	25	Paul Hayek
11	Dave Hamilton		Patricia Poole	28	Vianne Huff
13	Jim Adams	17	Mike Hoagland	30	Bud Strautman
	Cindi Erickson		Kelle Wolf	31	Norma Stevens
14	Bill Worthley	18	Mel Kuntz		

March Anniversaries

6	Beverly and Jack Bullard	52yrs	16	Jamie and Rick Federick	32yrs
6	Leslie and Jim Pfeiffer	31yrs	20	Della and Jim Reimers	64yrs
12	Melissa and Robert Sonnen	31yrs	28	Vianne and Bob Huff	63yrs
14	Claire and Kenneth Rhodes	33yrs			

Congregational Care Committee needs you, your caring heart, and your helping spirit!

The Kirk Congregational Care Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining! We offer help with rides, grocery shopping, home and facility visits, meal delivery, greeting cards, a prayer tree and so much more.

Please contact Susan Pendergrass (407-595-2945) or Carol Clark (501-915-8497) to learn more about this active and caring group that meets monthly. And if you've been involved previously, please consider helping again!

Matthew 25:35-36

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Kirk Calendar



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

Bible Study –Cancelled until further notice.

**-Maundy Thursday Worship-
March 28th, 5:30 p.m.,**

Sanctuary

**-Lenten Devotionals- Sanctuary,
11:00 a.m., March 6, 13, 20,
followed by lunch of soup and
bread, Hoffius Hall**

March 17th, 3p.m. Symphony Guild Concert

HUG Share (Grief Support)
March 21, 2:00 p.m.

Ageless Grace/Tai Chi-
March 5, 12, 19, 26- 3:30
Hoffius Hall

Pilgrimage Renewal-March
2, 10:00

Helping Hands-March 12-
9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 3:00,
March 6, 13, 20, 27

Committee Meetings

Session- March 8, 10:00

Administration- March 4, 10:00

Christian Ed. – March 21, 9:00

Communications- March 27,
1:45

Congregational Care- March 18,
10:00

Fellowship- March 12, 10:00

Member Outreach March 5, 9:00

Kirk Staff

William B. Bailey- Senior Pastor

Randy Toney- Music Director

Donna Toney- Organist/Pianist

Ruth Manweiler- Pianist (informal worship)

Carol Clark- Congregational Care Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth- Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg- Business Administrator

Arthur “Chip” Johnson- Sexton

Session

Dave Hamilton- Administration

Bill Worthley- Building

Martha Nielsen- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Pat Kuntz- Fellowship (Trustee)

Sharon Gardner- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Ben Meek- Member Outreach

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

Gail Salmen- Worship (Trustee)

PW Moderator- Susan Morrow

A Voice in the Pines is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. It is produced and edited by the Kirk's Communication Committee- Bob Morrow, Moderator.

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