

A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume LVI, August 2024

What to expect from “Ministry Architects”

On Sunday, July 28th, Pastor Hyde announced that the Session of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines was engaging Ministry Architects, abbreviated MA, for a “visioning” process. Of course, most of us have an idea what that is about but maybe we aren’t quite sure what will happen, exactly. Please read Ruth Hamilton’s Clerk’s Corner which outlines the Session’s decision to take this step.

But more background may be useful. Several articles have appeared in these pages outlining changes we have noticed in our church over the last few years. Apart from the impact Covid had on our worship and other activities at the Kirk, we have been experiencing declining membership. This is almost exclusively due to death of members or members moving away from the Village to be closer to family. But, at the same time, we haven’t been adding enough new members to replace those who had left. The question on everyone’s mind has been this: what can, or should we do to become a growing church again?

And now, with circumstances forcing upon us the need to recruit a new permanent pastor, we must consider what kind of pastor we will recruit! Even more important, what kind of church will that new pastor find here at the Kirk? These two issues, declining membership and recruiting a new pastor require that we take a good, hard, long look at who God is calling us to be and where God is leading us.

That brings us to Ministry Architects. Founded by Rev. Mark DeVries, a Presbyterian minister, MA’s purpose is to lead congregations through times of



transition. They come highly recommended by our Presbytery leadership as they are helping the Presbytery through a transition of its own, and by other congregations like ours.

This is what happens next:

- Two consultants from MA will begin their work at the Kirk on August 11th and will complete the first phase by the 13th. This is the “deep listening assessment” mentioned in Pastor Hyde’s letter.
- Ruth Hamilton, Clerk of the Session, and other leaders are planning with MA for meetings which will occur with representatives of the congregation and staff during their visit.
- These meetings will include representatives from committees, PW, Shepherd Groups, the choir, as well as all staff and others. The meetings will allow members to share their thoughts about a wide range of topics and issues and share their aspirations for the Kirk.

(continued on page 2)

When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
5 p.m. In Hoffius Hall

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



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



(continued from page 1)

- MA consultants will compile and analyze what they learn and develop a summary and recommendations from this first phase of their process.
- Subsequently, teams of Kirk members and staff will be working with MA on implementing recommendations. More on this second phase later.

As we prayerfully go through this visioning process, we expect to be led to a better understanding of the direction the Kirk should take and what sort of pastor would help lead us going forward. This is very important foundational work. Doing this work now will help us in our recruitment of a new pastor both by equipping the Pastor Nominating Committee and by demonstrating to potential candidates the thoughtfulness and faithfulness of this most special part of the family of God.

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator



David Easley

Jamie Federick photo

Easley concert delivered entertainment, amazement, and inspiration

For those of us at the Kirk we are spoiled when it comes to pianistic virtuosity. The standard set by our musicians is simply unsurpassed. It was a treat to have David Easley, pianist and friend of the Toney's come to the Kirk to share his own huge talent with us. He didn't disappoint. Just a few comments from the David Easley piano concert July 14th at the Kirk will suffice. They say it all.

"The concert was like one of those great receptions put on at the Kirk. The variety was amazing, the cooking was unsurpassed, the whole sumptuous repast was nourishing and energizing. No matter what your taste in music may be, Easley can satisfy you. What a cook, I mean artist!"

"Who knew the piano had so many notes, and who knew they could all be played at once!"

"Take a top-notch pianist and add classical, improvisational, and jazz music. Then add a dash of slapstick, and you have a great Sunday afternoon at the Kirk. What a talented musician!"

"David is a "super-human" on the piano!"

"He had a terrific personality that exuded happiness and love. He was a master at improvisation. The medley he played from suggestions from the audience was so much fun. What a great friend he would be!"

"The concert was amazing! I was not only entertained by the music, but by his humor and even a bit of magic. He is a phenomenal musician!"

"David Easley is a master at musical weaving. He wove together well-known tunes from hymns to movie themes and even included Gershwin song snippets in a delightfully fun."

"If you know your classical piano, you heard quotations from many of the great composers mixed with all the best the piano has to offer in pyrotechnics."

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

“There was magic on many levels including audience participation in random hymn selections woven into a tapestry of hymn highlights in a truly improvisational style to musical magic in leading us in a joyful worship of hymns we know and love.”

“I am particularly thankful to Randy and Donna Toney for making this concert possible for us at the Kirk.”

“Wow! Just WOW! What a talent! I just wish the concert had lasted another hour or two! Can’t wait for an encore!”

If you missed this concert, don’t make the mistake of missing it when he returns for an encore!

Contributed by the Communications Committee



Easley got in character for one jazz riff.

Robert Sonnen photo



Kirk cooks went all out to please concert goers and the artist.

Robert Sonnen photo



David Easley enlisted Allison Harvie to help with his coloring book magic trick.

Jamie Federick photo



Even the cake was all about the piano!

Jamie Federick photo

Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship winners announced

The Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship fund has blessed our church with endowed funds to be used as scholarships for higher education. The 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 scholarship fund, which now exceeds \$50,000, is administered by a sub-committee of the Christian Education Committee of Kirk in The Pines. Applicants must be members/employees or families of members/employees of Presbyterian Kirk in The Pines for a minimum of three years. This year we will award scholarships of \$2,000 each to four well deserving students. The 2024-2025 scholarships are awarded to Greer Patten, Abigail Allingham, Andrew Erickson, and Elena Clark. *Contributed by Susan Morrow, Education Committee member*

Abigail Allingham



Abigail Allingham begins her junior year of college at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland and is pursuing a double major in English Language and Literature along with completing the requirements for certification in Secondary Education. Abigail is the granddaughter of Kirk member Bruce Dale.

Greer Patten



Greer Patten is the granddaughter of Millie Croson and the sister of past Maack-Ormsbee scholarship award recipient Aidan Patten. She will pursue her academic studies in Global Studies at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Greer's goals for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year are to pursue her undergraduate studies and eventually study abroad.

Andrew Erickson

Andrew Erickson (age 16) will pursue his academic studies in Business at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is the grandson of Sharon Gardner. He has already been actively involved in many facets of a business for the last several years, even becoming CEO and managing partner in a business that has now transitioned to an incorporated entity.

Elena Clark

Elena Clark will pursue studies in Landscape Architecture at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, with a focus on sustainable development and nutrition. Elena is the granddaughter of Carol Clark. Elena's dream is to own a sustainable architecture firm that will create and promote global environmentally sustainable systems.

Joint Garland County PW Fellowship Gathering to be hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church

Women from both Kirk Presbyterian Women circles are invited to a Garland County Fellowship Gathering potluck luncheon of PW groups in Garland County to kick off the new study year. Westminster Presbyterian's Catherine Circle will host Kirk PW members and women from First Presbyterian, Hot Springs at 11:30am on Tuesday, August 13 in their Fellowship Hall at 3819 Central Avenue.

Guests are invited to park in the front parking lot, bring a salad or sandwiches or chips and, if you choose, paper towels or facial tissue for Potter's Clay Ministries to Fellowship Hall. Hosts will provide drinks and desserts and a brief program. Time after lunch will be spent getting to know each other, hearing a devotional, and each Circle will be invited to tell about one favorite Bible study and one favorite mission project.

Please notify Susan Morrow (susu2morrow@gmail.com or 501.231.5541) by Monday, August 5, that you plan to attend this August 13 luncheon so she can turn in a number to Westminster women.

Contributed by NiAnn Thompson, Westminster Presbyterian Hot Springs, AR



Kirk Choir keeps singing in special summer ensembles

The choir enjoys time off during summer months, but that doesn't mean it's relaxing for all singers. This summer we have enjoyed a Ladies' Ensemble singing *Who'll Be A Witness For My Lord* and a Men's Ensemble singing *Like a River in My Soul*. Before the choir returns in full, we have two more special groups: the Gospel Choir and Motet Choir.

Gospel music in America was launched by the Chicago blues player Thomas Dorsey in the 1930's. His career was at its height when, in 1921, he began a lifelong spiritual conversion. Using his unique blues skills, he began to write his own Christian songs. *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* is one of the better-known. Mahalia Jackson was one of his early collaborators, and he went on to mentor Ma Rainey, Aretha Franklin, and many others.

The Gospel Choir will sing *Wade in the Water*, a spiritual song that actually predates Dorsey's gospel movement. It was first published in 1902, after being popularized by the Fisk University Jubilee Singers in Nashville, Tennessee. Spirituals predate gospel music,



On July 28th a volunteer group of choir members with one guest, Greg Toney (back row, third from left) sang the spiritual *Wade in the Water*. **Robert Sonnen photo**



Abe and Fran Stroud provided the anthem for communion Sunday, July 7, singing *One Bread, One Body*. **Jamie Federick photo**

but this arrangement has such a bluesy style, we consider it a gospel arrangement.

Motets come from a much earlier period. Originally, in the 13th century, these were sacred works that expounded on the plainsong melodies ("Gregorian chant") that had existed for a millennium. The unknown writers of motets added descants in one or two voices to supplement the single line melody. Writers of secular music adopted the form quickly in the 14th century.

(continued on page 7)



Men from the Kirk Choir plus guest, pianist David Easley (fourth from right) sang *Like a River in My Soul* on July 14th. Easley also played a rousing original arrangement of *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name/Crown Him with Many Crowns*.

(continued from page 6)

Composers of motets have included Palestrina, Gabrieli, Brahms, and Poulenc. Those composers alone span over four centuries. Our Motet Choir will be singing *If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis, written in 1565.

The Kirk is fortunate to have singers that can offer this range of musical styles. We hope they serve to enhance the worship of our Lord and Savior.
Contributed by Randy Toney, Kirk Music Director

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18b-19

Vera Lloyd to celebrate “Lulu’s Love in Action” on August 15th

Arkansas consistently ranks in the top three states for youth with multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences such as abuse, neglect, extreme poverty, developmental delays, mental health issues and exposure to drug use. Many of Vera Lloyd’s residents have had multiple unsuccessful foster care placements, some with upwards of 15 plus failed placements. Vera Lloyd serves and supports Arkansas children and youth as they work to heal from their trauma through intense and individualized treatment in preparation for a better life. The Kirk through our Mission Committee has long supported Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services.

Lulu Jackson Williamson was a powerhouse and leader who devoted her life to children in need. Although Vera Lloyd’s namesake was an early donor of land, Lulu was the driving force behind the establishment of what was first a children’s home. She frequently quoted Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” Her Christ-like love gave her a sweet and compelling influence on the community she cherished most. *Lulu’s Love In Action Day* is Vera Lloyd’s annual Day of Giving celebrating founding mother, Lulu Jackson Williamson on her birthday.

Lulu was born in 1864 to James and Lucy Jackson in Monticello, Arkansas. Lulu attended public schools in Monticello and graduated from LaGrange College in Georgia. At 21 years of age, Lulu married James Williamson who was a South-



Lulu Williamson

east Arkansas attorney. Many Kirk members are familiar with the iconic Williamson Hall on the Vera Lloyd Monticello Campus named in her honor.

The challenges facing many children in Arkansas can seem insurmountable. Continuing to build on the foundation of Lulu’s witness and faith, VLPFS is committed to demonstrating Christ’s love in the world by being a place where children can live, grow, and thrive. Keep Vera Lloyd in your prayers as they do the Lord’s work to heal our broken world.

For more information on Vera Lloyd’s programs and *Lulu’s Love in Action Day*, go to <https://veralloyd.org/>.

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator, Immediate Past Chairman Vera Lloyd Agency Board

Save the Date!

Upcoming Fall Education Classes

Law and Religion in the U.S.

Presented by Rev. Mark Clark
Retired Attorney and PC USA Pastor
Weekly, September 18-October 9
9:30 a.m., Bailey Hall

Four Seasons in David's Life

Presented by Pastor Randy Hyde
Weekly, October 23- November 13
9:30 a.m., Bailey Hall



Need we say more?

Help us fill these
boxes with canned
and boxed dry goods.



Bob Morrow photo

Great news and heartfelt thanks from Pat and Richard McPheters!

The McPheters want to thank all of the Kirk family members for the healing prayers, cards of encouragement, and calls of concern during her long journey to PET scan results. After 2 months of required recovery at Good Sam rehab she has no ACTIVE CANCER CELLS.

We are looking forward to seeing you at church.
Peace and Love
Pat and Richard

Aging Gracefully series to offer "Safe Driving as We Age"

Good Samaritan Independent Living and Oaklawn Center on Aging are offering the seminar "Safe Driving as We Age!" in the Good Samaritan Cedar Lodge chapel on August 8 at 1 p.m.

This popular program will be presented by Sergeant Kevin Steed and Trooper Hunter Grubbs, both from the Hot Springs area. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information call Oaklawn Center on Aging at 501-623-0020.



³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are
persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

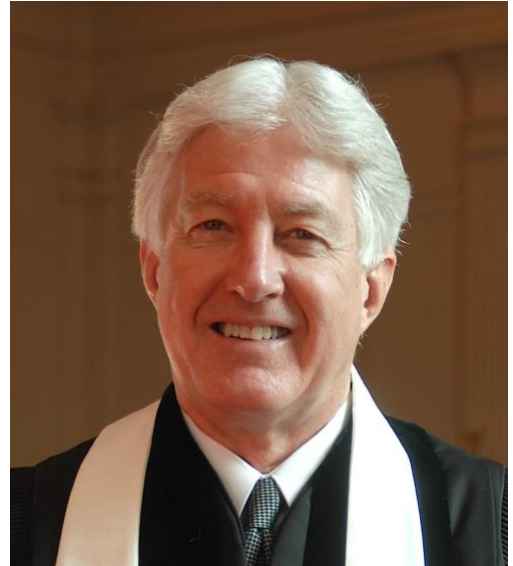
My first two newsletter pieces were largely inspirational in nature. Though I hardly equate my communications with scripture, as I sit down to compose these I wonder what it might have been like for the Apostle Paul to write the various churches he had served. I have found in Paul's letters a mixture of both inspiration and information. Sometimes, especially when it came to the church in Corinth and those wild-and-wooly Galatian congregations, he did his share of scolding as well. Since I've done the inspirational, allow me to merge into a more informational tone with this newsletter. And, I promise, no scolding!

I've now participated in a couple of Session meetings. This last one was particularly long, but we had much to consider. I won't report on all of it (that's Clerk Ruth Hamilton's job!) but I do want to share a couple of things that came from our discussions.

One is that we are considering an *Elder of the Day* to serve each Sunday. Several of you have commented on how, in worship, I have invited guests to come and talk with us if they have questions about our church or if they are interested in joining our fellowship. But who do they talk with?

Our elders should be equipped to talk with them about what it means to "officially" cast their lot with the Kirk in the Pines. This will be a point of discussion at our upcoming Session meeting. The purpose is to be at the ready to invite folks to be a part of our church ministry.

Another discussion had to do with our offering – or should I say "offerings" (plural)? Okay, I will: offerings, plural. As I understand it, during Covid the practice of passing the plates was suspended for obvious reasons. And, in consideration of the average age of our congregation, frankly, there are enough empty spaces in the pews that it is physically difficult for some people to participate. It was felt



Pastor Randy Hyde

that an explanation was needed, especially for our guests, as to why we do it this way. So, we are now including an explanatory statement in the worship bulletin.

And now I get to the offerings (plural) part. We also ask that our worshipers give an extra dollar for missions, so we have a separate plate in the narthex for that purpose. In my Little Rock church, we had what we called the "Extra Dollar" campaign. We didn't designate the offering for missions, but simply wanted to bolster our regular giving. It proved to be very popular, and our folks joined in with a great deal of enthusiasm. I hope the same is true here at the Kirk.

August Sermons:

August 4- *On Not Getting What We Want*
John 6:24-35

August 11- *When a Prophet Fails*
1 Kings 19:4-8

August 18- *A Hearing Heart*
1 Kings 3:5-14; Ephesians 5:15-20

August 25- *The God in Your Pocket*
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; John 6:60-69

What's next? By now you have received a letter from Rev. Hyde, announcing our next step in this journey we're on to find our new permanent pastor.

Starting the beginning of May we searched for and found a wonderful transitional pastor to help lead us through this interim period. Rev. Randy Hyde began June 1st, and so we're now ready to move on to the next step—a time of visioning for our future.

At the July Session meeting, it was unanimously decided to hire the consulting firm, Ministry Architects, to lead us in this visioning study. They use deep listening sessions to build a full picture of our unique needs and aspirations. They then develop and recommend a customized plan focused for our future and are available to help us with implementing it. To do all this we will have two consultants come along side us. They'll want to hear church members' joy, frustrations and dreams as they identify the Kirk's strengths and challenges. Using this information, they will help us develop a compelling vision that defines our mission and core values. It will articulate who we are as a church in the 21st century and what God is calling us to do.

But this visioning step can only happen with your help. The two Ministry Architects' consultants will be at the Kirk on August 11 to begin their work. The Session is asking each member to join with them in sharing their thoughts and ideas. Your input is integral to the process. Details for these listening sessions will soon be announced.

Friends, we also ask you to join us in prayer, that through this process, we find new energy and direction for the Kirk, and insight into the kind of pastor we should call for the future.

The Clerk's Corner

Ruth
Hamilton



Highlights from the May Session Meeting:

Communion was held at the worship services on July 6/7, 2024.

Church Statistics as of July 12: Members: 213
Family Units: 145

Deaths since June 14, 2024: none

Pulpit Supply for Saturday worship services in July: July 6, 13, 27: Rev. Bill Seitz; July 20: Rev. Dale Clancy

Elder of the Day: Motion: It was moved and seconded to establish the role of "Elders of the Day" (two Elder's for each Sunday after the worship service) to help any guests that want information about the church. Motion passed

New Member: Motion: It was moved and seconded to accept William I. (Bill) Morrow into membership of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines by letter of transfer. Motion passed.

Observations and "thank you" from former Kirk Pastor Mike Seitz

Observation – the Kirk has shown, and continues to show, that Jesus Christ is strengthening us, carrying us, and lives in all of us who claim His name. How strong we are as a congregation! ...with everything from a powerful Christ-centered session, a remarkably good Transitional Pastor, and the willingness you show to love and care for each other. We are richly blessed.

Merilyn and I want you to know how grateful we are that you have been there for us during our recent illnesses. We only wish we could mention individual names and not fear forgetting someone. I will say, there are a great number of wonderful, spirit filled people in the Kirk, who give so much and who have sustained us. We all miss Bill, but his spirit is always us.

Grace and Peace, Mike (and Merilyn) Seitz

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to Date: June 30, 2024

	Month		Year to Date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund				
Receipts	\$38,992	\$37,725	\$233,952	\$223,976
Disbursements	\$38,992	<u>\$30,087</u>	\$233,952	<u>\$196,244</u>
Difference		\$7,638		\$27,732

Endowment and Program Funds

Checking Balance \$103,033

Special Funds (May 31, 2024)

Memorial Fund	\$102,090
Choir Fund	\$9,158
Luke 12:48 Fund	\$302,273
Endowment Fund	\$857,714
Maack-Ormsbee Fund	\$59,596

Total Special Funds \$1,330,831

Total All Funds \$1,433,864

Mission Offering \$282

Program Funds transferred to Endowment Fund as of June 1, 2024

Financial Reports

Quarterly Financial Reports appear in our May (January-March), August (April-June), October (July-September), and February (October-December) newsletters. If questions occur in the interim direct them to Sharon Gardner, Finance Committee Moderator.



Happy dates



August Birthdays

1	Earl Mulley	12	Edie Loveday	27	Cynthia Morgan
2	Barbara McAnarney	13	Ludean Walston	28	Jim Hess
8	Judy Stewart	14	Beverly Carpenter		Pat McPheters
	Sharon Hogue	23	Carol Clark	30	Barbara Harris-Chambliss
11	Barb Henry		Pat Koller		

August Anniversaries

1	Donna & Randy Toney	43yrs	23	Marilyn & Jerral Johnson	67yrs
6	Eleanor & Donald Elsenheimer	64yrs		Judy & Duane Sonnenburg	65yrs
10	Joyce & Paul Hayek	66yrs	30	Emily & Dennis Faulk	66yrs
19	Nancy & Jim Patton	46yrs		Barbara & Earl Mulley	37yrs

Don't forget....

The "Flower Calendar" in Bailey Hall needs you to sign up for providing flowers for Sunday morning worship!

Bouquets are \$40 and rose buds are \$12.50. For questions, call Sandy Adams 501-915-9006.



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

August 13, Garland County PW Fellowship Gathering, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, 11:30

HUG Share (Grief Support)
August 15, 2:00, Smallman Parlor

Ageless Grace/Tai Chi
August 6, 13, 20, 27- 3:30
Bailey Hall

Pilgrimage Renewal-August 3, 10:00, Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands-August 13 - 9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 3:00, August 28

Committee Meetings

Session- August 9, 10:00

Administration- August 12, 10:00

Christian Ed. – August 15, 9:00

Communications- August 28, 1:45

Congregational Care- August 22, 10:00

Mission Committee August 8, 3:00

Kirk Staff

Randy Hyde- Pastor

Randy Toney- Music Director

Donna Toney- Organist/Pianist

Ruth Manweiler- Pianist (informal worship)

Carol Clark- Pastoral Care Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth- Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg- Business Administrator

Arthur “Chip” Johnson- Sexton

Session

Clerk of the Session: Ruth Hamilton

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

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.

Its email address is:

kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines
275 Asturias Drive
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Phone: 501-922-1333

Email: kirkoffice1@gmail.com

Website: www.kirkinthepines.org