



A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume 61

January 2025

Kirk Choir Concert draws enthusiastic crowd



The Kirk sanctuary was full of members and guests for the annual Kirk Choir Christmas concert. Under the direction of Director Randy Toney, the program was a beautiful mix of choral work, solos by Kirk singers, and readings. The program began with a Kirk Choir standard, *We Shall Light a Thousand Candles*. Clark Mowry and Patty Barnes were soloists for *O Come All Ye Faithful*. Fran Stroud was soloist for the Anthem, *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord*, based on Mary's Magnificat, and Susan Morrow

sang the solemn *Pie Jesu* from Gabriel Faure's Requiem.

Further, variety was provided by a reading of the poem *Rich Man* by the prolific 20th century poet, Elizabeth Rooney. The addition of a seven-person bell choir was an added delight playing arrangements of *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* and *Good King Wenceslas*.

The program was further enhanced by talented instrumentalists, sisters Kathy Hendricks (flute) and Cheri Theil (percussion). The finale to the program was the anthem *Joy to the World* (arr. Dan Forest) with a rousing four hand piano accompaniment featuring Donna Toney and Fran Stroud.

For many, including the choir, the program made Christmas and will be remembered for years to come.

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communication Committee Moderator.



Kirk Bell Choir (from left) Susan Morrow, Linda Hommema, Patty Barnes, Randy Toney, Melissa Sonnen, Fran Stroud, and Donna Toney.

Photos by Robert Sonnen

When We Meet

Sunday worship service
Begins at 10 a.m.

Saturday informal worship
Begins at 4 p.m.
in Bailey Hall

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



December at the Kirk Potpourri



Mary Ann Reynolds (left) and Vicki Rosenquist were grateful for the generous response of Kirk members to the giving tree. Gifts were distributed to Children of Mountain Pine, Ouachita Children's Home and Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services. **Robert Sonnen photo**



Shepherd group #5 met for our monthly dining out for great food and fantastic fellowship. December's event was held at Dolce Vita. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, and anyone is welcome to join our group. Contact leaders Barb and Daryl Henry. From left Ron Lovett, Ruth Richards, Daryl Henry, Barb Henry, Gloria Hepner and Cindy Morgan. **Linda Hommema photo**



Members of the Grace Circle proudly displayed Christmas gifts collected and wrapped for a mother and her three children. From left front, Priscilla Hayek, Ruth Hamilton, Carol Clark, Barbara Fuquay, and back, Susan Pendergrass, Judith Rosenthal, Norma Stevens Marcia Bauer, Sarah Owen, Nell White, and Becky Wakefield (Jamie Federick not pictured). **Jamie Federick photo**



Shepherd group #2 enjoyed a Christmas luncheon with a few residents at Mt. Carmel. Fun, food, and laughter made for a blessed gathering and a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. Gathered at the table, from left, Dottie Isaacson, Norma Stevens, Denny Zymboly, Bob Huff, Vianne Huff, Howard Baldwin, LuDean Walston, Millie Croson, Halene Strautman, Marty Volkema. Back row from left Judy & Bob Corwin, Kelle Wolf, Jean Fisher, Nell White, Kelly Vollmer-Kay, and E.J. Pangle.

December PW gathering featured HSV Police speaker

It was a cold and cloudy day in the Village on Monday, December 9, when about 50 people attended the Presbyterian Women December Gathering. Most of the women were PW members, but some were guests as were the men. By contrast to the weather, the atmosphere in Bailey Hall was warm and friendly as the aroma from the kitchen suggested a delicious meal to come. The tables were set and beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Rosalyn Halbert opened the meeting by welcoming our guests and calling on Becky Wakefield, who offered the blessing. Then the highly anticipated meal was prepared by the Greenhorns. This group planned and prepared a delicious meal of Bacon/Spinach Quiche accompanied by a mixed fresh fruit cup. The dessert that followed was a choice of various types of cake.

Following the luncheon, Rosalyn introduced the guest speakers. Since Police Chief Kristi Bennet was unable to attend, she sent her very able Administrative Commander, Shawna Yonts, and Sgt. Colt Sharp. They presented a very informative program on "Safety and Avoiding Scams".

For your safety, stated Cmdr. Yonts, always be aware of your surroundings. "If someone gives you an uncomfortable feeling, call 911. Unlike larger communities, we usually have time to come talk and check things out. And check on your neighbor if you haven't seen them in a few days." She also stated that should you need a caregiver, be sure to do your due diligence and do a background check.



From left, Sgt. Colt Sharp, Rosalyn Halbert, and Administrative Commander Shawna Yonts. *Susan Pendergrass photo*

Scams are a huge problem, especially in the Village because of the number of seniors residing here. The type of scam changes all the time, but the scammer will try to upset you and scare you to get you to do what they want. Cmdr. Yonts continued, "There is no need to be polite, just hang up!" She further advised that "friends" do not ask for money.

(continues on page 4)



December gathering included both women and men. Front left Paul Hayek. Opposite Judy & Bob Corwin and Kelle Wolf. *Robert Sonnen photo*



Many of the tasty dessert treats provided for the December gathering. *Susan Pendergrass photo*

(continued from page 3)

"Check washing" is a new scam that is currently taking place. If you pay bills by mailing checks, don't put the checks in your mailbox because they may be stolen and the payee "washed" so they can insert another name. Use the big blue mailboxes or the post office.

After the police officer's presentation, we were delighted to be entertained by the award-winning singing quartet, Treble in the Village. The singers are Kristi Ponder, Patty Barnes, Karen Wesson, and Kathy Allison. Sharon Gardner, who is a regular member of the group, was on a temporary leave of absence.

After singing several Christmas favorites in their trademark "Sweet Adeline" style, they closed the program with a delightful rendition of "Which Way to the Manger", followed by "Go Tell it on the Mountain".

*Contributed by Barbara Worthley,
Communication Committee member*



Treble in the Village singers Kristi Ponder (from left), Patty Barnes, Karen Wesson, and Kathy Allison performed at the December PW gathering.
Susan Pendergrass photo



This first PW Gathering open to all women and men drew a large crowd of interested parishioners (above). *Susan Pendergrass photo*



Some of the Greenhorns enjoyed their work at the Gathering. Above, from left, are Wendy Gage, Marcia Bauer, Judith Rosenthal, Becky Wakefield, Priscilla Hayek, and Carol Clark. *Susan Pendergrass photo*



Wanted !

Any and All OUTREACH Ideas

Big or Small

We Want Them All !

Call: Wendy Gage @559-970-9834

Email: wendy.gage101@yahoo.com



Rev. Sara Anne Berger

Pastor Hyde will be having hand surgery soon and has arranged for Reverend Sara Anne Berger to lead worship on Sunday, January 12th. Rev. Berger is a PC(USA) pastor who has served churches in South Carolina, Louisiana and Arkansas, and is now the assistant director of the Thriving Congregations Program based out of the

University of the Ozarks. The program's goal is to work with small and rural churches in exploring the 6 Great Ends of the church, reclaiming that theological identity and, from that foundation, connecting with their communities, as vital parts of those communities.

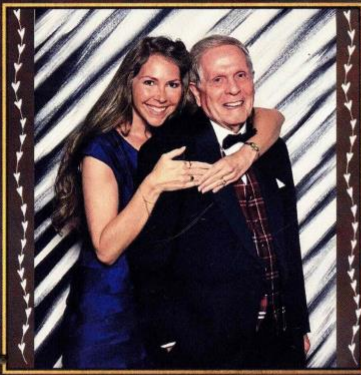
Berger most recently served as minister of word and sacrament at Grace Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Ark., from 2020 to 2024. Before that she served as minister of word and sacrament at First Presbyterian Church in Natchitoches, La. (2016-2020) and at Whitmire Presbyterian Church in Whitmire, S.C. (2011-2016). She was ordained by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee in September of 2011.

Dear Kirk Friends:

I want to say thank you for all the cards and caring expressions of love you sent to me during my recent health problems. Also, your prayers helped so much during these difficult times.

I am so thankful for the Kirk and all my wonderful friends.

*Sincerely,
LuDean Walston*

*We do not need much for Christmas.
Just the hope that those who are poor
Receive more blessings Christmas Day
Than they've had in their lives before.*

*We do not want much for Christmas.
Just the hope that Christians agree
To treat all who are different
With sincere Christ-like dignity.*

*We do not seek much for Christmas.
Just the hope that true charity ~
Among God's greatest gifts of all ~
Comes wrapped in generosity.*

*This year we aren't asking for much.
Just for kind acts with Jesus' touch.
~ RDN*

Sheree and Rick Niece

Pastor's Corner

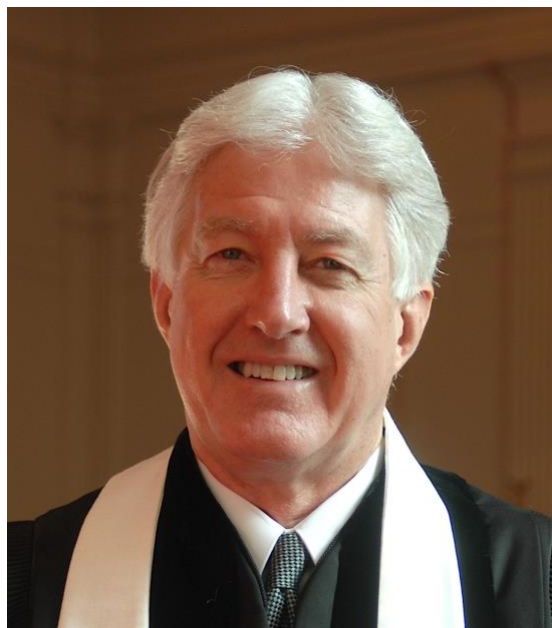
Dear Kirk Friends,

Though this is my third Presbyterian interim, it was my first Presbyterian Advent-Christmas commemoration. My two previous interims, at Second in Little Rock, were seven months in length, both ending in August. So, neither time did I get to participate in this holy season while serving that church.

What fun we have had here at the Kirk! Janet and I thoroughly enjoyed the anticipation of Christ's coming and celebration of his birth with you. Over the years, I have become convinced that the "quality" of this kind of experience is based on who you share it with, and we will always be grateful for this time with you and for your generous spirit toward us. Thank you.

I am also grateful to Bob Morrow for preaching in my absence December 29. I have found Bob to be an eager student of the scriptures, and I know those of you who were present appreciated, as I do, his sharing of his gifts with us. Thank you, Dr. Morrow!

Speaking of Bob Morrow, when I first came to the Kirk the biographical information that Bob sent to the *Village Voice* says that in addition to the three books, I have published my current project is on the great hymns of our faith. So, I have decided to share some upcoming sermons based on these hymns. Rather than do an every-Sunday series, I will be preaching these the first Sunday of each month. Here is the schedule with the sermon title followed by the hymn and text:



Pastor Randy Hyde

January Sermons in addition to the one previously mentioned:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 12 | Sara Anne Berger
<i>You Don't Have to Catch Up</i>
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 |
| January 19 | <i>His Hour</i>
John 2:1-11 |
| January 26 | <i>Short Pieces of String</i>
Luke 4:14-21 |

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 5 | <i>Here I Raise Mine Ebenezer/ Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
1 Samuel 7:1-14 |
| February 2 | <i>For the Living of These Days/God of Grace and God of Glory</i>
1 Peter 5:6-11 |
| March 2 | <i>In Our Own Strength/ A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>
Psalm 46:1-11 |
| April 6 | <i>Fix In Us Thy Humble Dwelling/ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>
1 John 4:13-21 |
| May 4 | <i>Ye Ransomed From the Fall/ All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>
Revelation 5:1-14 |
| June 1 | <i>That Saved a Wretch Like Me/ Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound</i>
Ephesians 1:3-14 |

Our December Session Meeting began with celebration. We were celebrating and honoring our 3 outgoing members who have worked faithfully and with good cheer for these last 3 years. They've gone far beyond their committed responsibilities using their time, energy and God-given gifts to further the ministry of the Kirk. We will miss Martha Nielsen, Gail Salmen, and Bill Worthley.

We also were celebrating our 3 new Elders who will be joining us to take up a mantle of leadership. We are so pleased to welcome Jane Moore, Susan Morrow, and Robert Sonnen. And lastly the Session was celebrating you, our Kirk members and friends. We were celebrating our life together as the body of believers—a life filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes through Jesus Christ. After all this celebrating, we also managed to have our Session meeting.

Highlights of the December Stated Session Meeting:

- **Sunday Worship Pulpit Supply:** Rev. Hyde will be gone from December 29—January 4. Bob Morrow will lead worship and preach for him on the 29th.
- **Saturday Worship Pulpit Supply:** December 7/21/28—Rev. Bill Seitz; December 14—Rev. Randy Hyde
- **Transfer of membership:**
 - Request for a letter of transfer of membership for John and Marty Davis to Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, Longview, TX.
 - Request for a letter of transfer of membership for Lucy Allen to Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill, SC.

The Clerk's Corner

Ruth
Hamilton



- **Deaths since November 8, 2024:**
Nancy Patton, December 7, 2024. Services pending.
- **Church Statistics as of November 8, 2024:**
Members: 202, Family Units: 139
- **New Members:** Motion: move to accept into membership Mike and Robin Terry, and Melissa Sonnen as active members of the Kirk. Motion seconded and passed.
- **Elder for Member Outreach:**
Motion: move to rescind the hold on filling the vacant position of Elder for Member Outreach and ask the Kirk Nominating Committee to find a nominee for the position. Motion seconded and passed.

Kirk Choir says thank you for support

The Kirk Choir wishes to thank the Kirk congregation for its support for our annual Christmas program. Your kind words and encouragement are always appreciated. And the attendance was a wonderful surprise! We also thank the fabulous Kirk kitchen crew for the delicious goodies and warm ambience in Bailey Hall.

The choir will return to worship on Sunday, Jan. 5.

In Memoriam

Nancy Kathryn Foster Patton

Nancy Kathryn Foster Patton went to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Nancy leaves behind her loving husband of 46 ½ years, James McNutt Patton, and Cricket, their rescue, who stayed by her side and whose heart she held until the end.

Nancy was born March 19, 1954, in Harvey, Illinois to Robert Lincoln Foster and Marjorie Lucille (Wise) Foster. She grew up in Homewood and had an older brother, James Richard Foster, who died in 1981. Nancy married in 1978, James McNutt Patton, who loved her and tended to her every need as her disease, ALS, progressed.

Growing up Nancy attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School and then Hanover College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in English. Nancy worked at the Matteson School District 162 for 34 years. After retirement Nancy and Jim moved to Hot Springs Village, AR to enjoy their retirement.

In addition to her husband, Nancy is survived by her brother-in-law, Timothy (Jacqueline), sister-in-law Mary Ann Wojie (David), and brothers-in-law, Thomas (Theresa) and Blair (Amanda) Patton. In addition she is survived by a cousin, Kristin Miesse Willey (Bryan), and their 2 sons, Dallas and Jake Willey, and her Aunt Peg Foster, the widow of Richard Hillen Foster (d. 2020), Robert's brother and their children Bobbi and Bill.

Nancy was both an aunt and great aunt to many, including James Holland Patton (Emily), Tyler, Joseph (d. 2016), Meaghan, Caitlin (Capt. Ryan Petrul), son Lukas and daughters Madison and Evelyn, James Bedell Patton II (d. 1990), Alexandria, Geena (Noah Hundley) son Grayson, and Taylor.

Nancy was involved with the Daughters of the American Revolution as a Registrar, and was very



Nancy Patton, 19 Mar 1954 – 7 Dec 2024

proud of her ancestors, Lt. David Reed, Sr. on her father's side, and Adam Wise, Sr., who was on her mother's side. Nancy was also a descendant of James Chilton, a passenger on the Mayflower. Nancy generously shared her time helping her church, the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, the HSV Animal Welfare League and the HSV Citizens Police Academy.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Arkansas Hospice, the ALS Association, the HSV Animal Welfare League, or the Presbyterian Kirk for Missions. A service will be held on February 1, 2025, at 11 am, at the Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, AR.

1 Corinthians 15 ⁵¹Behold, I tell you a ^[a]mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Richly traditional “Lessons and Carols” service offered a worshipful Christmas Eve

The service of “Lessons and Carols” began in England in the 19th century and has been a tradition at many protestant churches since that time. The Kirk has celebrated Christmas Eve in this fashion for many years.

At the December 24, 2024, service at the Kirk in keeping with the practice, scripture “lessons” were followed by the congregation singing of Christmas Carols. In addition, The Kirk choir sang the touching anthem/lullaby *Sleep Holy Babe* (arr. Thomas Keesecker).



The passing of the candle light by Pastor Hyde while singing *Silent Night* was a highpoint of the service.



With the traditional Chrismon Tree in the background, Randy and Janet Hyde (left) opened the service by providing the advent reading and prayer. Pastor Hyde lit the Christ candle (right).



Robert Sonnen photos



January Birthdays

1	Wayne Copeland	14	Karen Ammann	25	Linda Hommema
6	Donald Elsenheimer		Darell Fisher		Ben Meek
9	Mike Carpenter	22	Jerral Johnson	31	Marcia Bauer
10	Priscilla Hayek	25	Halene Strautman		Emily Faulk
12	Debra Cordell				

January Anniversaries

3	Dotty & Gary Rector	44yrs	24	Ben & Karen Meek	55yrs
23	Jean & Darell Fisher	65yrs	23	Rev. Randy and Janet Hyde	55yrs

Class of 2025 added to Kirk Session



Robert Sonnen (from left) and Susan Morrow were ordained and installed as new elders on December 8th. Jane Moore, formerly ordained, was installed by Pastor Randy Hyde. Elders are first elected by the congregation before ordination and installation.

Each elder will be Moderator of a Kirk Committee; Robert Sonnen, Building Committee, Susan Morrow, Christian Education, and Jane Moore, Worship Committee.

Under guidance by the church pastor, the Session is the decision-making body of a Presbyterian Church. Session Moderators lead the committees that they represent. Committees are the backbone of work at the Kirk and are composed of interested and talented Kirk volunteers. *Melissa Sonnen photo.*



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

KIRK OFFICE CLOSED

Jan. 1-3

Ageless Grace/Tai Chi- Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 - 3:30 Bailey Hall

Pilgrimage Renewal- Jan. 4, 10:00, Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands-Jan. 14 -9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 3:00, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Committee Meetings

Session- Jan 17. 10:00

Administration- Jan. 14, 10:00

Christian Ed- Jan. 16, 9 :00

Communications- Jan. 8, 1:30

Congregational Care- Jan. 23, 10:00

Fellowship- Jan. 14, 10:00

Missions – Jan. 9, 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

Robert Sonnen- Building

Susan Morrow- 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

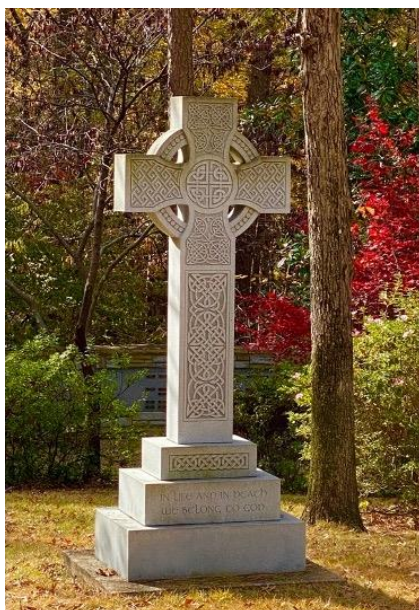
Jane Moore- Worship

PW Moderator- Becky Wakefield

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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