

Disaster assistance finds a home at Ferncliff DAC

"There's kind of nothing that PW can't do." This is how our orientation to the Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) began. I wondered what Emily Hooker, Director of Mission and Outreach at Ferncliff meant. In this case, we were not a "PW" group. But it piqued my interest for what might be coming on our day trip to the Ferncliff DAC.

Most, like me, think of Ferncliff as a summer camp for kids or as a conference center for the Presbytery. But, I learned it is so much more. Starting in response to Hurricane Katrina, and with an interest in diversifying their mission, Ferncliff was identified as an ideal location for warehousing and staging disaster assistance. Over time the DAC, located on the "back 40" of the Ferncliff property, has become a major domestic distribution center for the area west of the Mississippi River.

The DAC, in fact, is one of only a few warehouses that operate through a partnership with Church World Service and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. DAC has a covenant partnership with those organizations, and receives supplies, kits, and other materials that have been assembled for rapid response to disasters. Kits are also assembled right in the DAC warehouse by a team of volunteers. After the kits are inspected (by volunteers) they're packed in uniform boxes ready for pickup and distribution.

Currently, the focus is on hygiene kits which have personal care supplies which is the most requested kit. There are also "kid" kits which include school supplies, flood cleanup kits including buckets, etc., and menstrual hygiene kits. Church World Services handles distribution to disaster areas. Sometimes Ferncliff doesn't even know where the kits are going. But increasingly, the DAC is also responding locally to needs of homeless shelters and in areas where there are incoming refugees and with low-income immigrants.



The Kirk Team: from left, Susan Morrow, Jane Moore, Daryl Henry, Richard McPheters, Barbara Henry, Barbie Arant, Carol Clark, Susan Pendergrass, Becky Wakefield, and Bob Morrow.
Emily Hooker photo (continued page 2)

When We Meet

Sunday Traditional Worship
10 a.m.- Sanctuary
Saturday Informal Worship
5 p.m.- Bailey Hall



(continued from page 1)



Emily Hooker toured the capacious DAC warehouse with the Kirk team. From left, Barb Henry, Richard McPheters, and Emily Hooker. **Bob Morrow photo**

The Ferncliff DAC is funded through a variety of mechanisms. Some support comes from the Presbytery of Arkansas. They also receive some grant funding. Some of the undesignated donations to Ferncliff go to the DAC as well.

With only one paid employee, Emily, this program relies almost entirely on volunteer labor for assembling and checking of kits then packing them in uniform boxes for shipping. DAC relies on donated supplies to some extent but prefers to purchase supplies or obtain them from their covenant partners. Some funds are available through Presbyterian Church donations to purchase supplies for kits. Ferncliff can purchase supplies more cheaply and in bulk. Plus, there are specific requirements for the items in kits that must be met. So it is better for those who are interested to donate money rather than supplies.

Our Mission team including 9 Kirk members (and one Kirk friend) recently went to the Ferncliff DAC as part of a joint “Lunch and Learn” and Mission Committee effort. Our walk-through of the warehouse was an eye opener. Just the scale of the DAC is impressive. The warehouse was filled with boxes of kits and bulk donations from various organizations. Decorated ceiling tiles in the kit assembly space record the names of many teams that have come through their packing and checking workspace.

After training, we were tasked with checking hygiene kits that had been pre-assembled. All in all, our team checked and packed 480 kits! I think Emily was impressed with our efficiency and camaraderie. We even learned that the DAC could work with our Missions Committee to organize a kit assembly day at the Kirk at some future date!

So, what does PW have to do with it, that is, the DAC? Thanks to Presbyterian Women funding, the DAC was able to purchase a much-needed truck, christened “Boxanne”, for pickup and delivery of supplies and aid. For our team the trip to DAC was an unforgettable day of learning, serving, and fellowship. **Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator**



“Boxanne” was purchased through funding from Presbyterian Women. **Bob Morrow photo**

Caring for our brothers and sisters

Serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee is a great honor. My fellow committee members are a joy to be and work with. Our task is challenging, but our motivation is keen. Our many conversations are stimulating and revealing.

To that last point, I've been prompted to reconsider the meaning of being Christian during the last several months, greatly, because the committee's topics of discussion have included the meaning of scripture passages, the nature of church polity, the centrality of faith in all that we do, and so much more.

At one meeting, I referred to an admonition my ethics professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary shared with me and my fellow seminarians decades ago. Dr. William Lazareth was clear and bold in saying that when the Lutheran Church devolved to being nothing more than a Nordic Alumni Association, it would cease to be the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dr. Lazareth's statement has resonated loudly for me since that morning in 1971. I believe his words weren't intended to diminish the value of fellowship, but rather to say that our social time together should only strengthen and embolden us to greater servanthood.

I'm reminded of the commitment of a gentleman who serves as an important example for me. His is a living, breathing embodiment of the Bible verse from Deuteronomy 15:7-11, "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor...you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need." This individual came to the conclusion that he simply wasn't "putting his money where his faith was," and so he found a new way to express it.

His path may not be remarkable, but it's worth noting. He told his family that because his was a fine and secure life, he did not wish to receive gifts on his birthday or at Christmas. Rather, he asked his family to give, as they chose, to organizations that assisted the poor, the needy, and the mistreated. He truly believes that the greatest gift he can receive is to know that the downtrodden are cared for, and

that he just might be an instrument of good.

I have taken notes. Simply do what is right and good, and always put others ahead of myself. Therein lies the power of the Gospel message.

Arnie Holtberg

September 13, 2025

LuDean Walston



LuDean Walston passed away on September 8, 2025, just shy of 86 years of age. She moved to the Village in 2015 and joined the Kirk at the encouragement of Gary and Carol Clark. She had no family. The Kirk was her family. For 10 years LuDean was at the Kirk whenever the doors were open and she was well enough to attend. She was notoriously independent which helped her overcome many medical setbacks over the last few years of her life.

LuDean did not want an obituary or a memorial service. But she did want her dear friends and "family" at the Kirk to know how much she loved you and appreciated the love you shared with her. We will miss our sister LuDean for all the ways she blessed our lives and for her love for her Kirk family.

No memorial service is planned but friends will gather in the Memorial Garden for her interment at a date to be announced.

Contributed by Bob Morrow

CHURCH DIRECTORY

PRESBYTERIAN



A new updated Kirk Directory of Members and Friends is now available. If you haven't gotten a copy of it yet, look for it in the Narthex and Office Hallway Information Racks.

Annual Kirk Chili Cook-Off



5:30 p.m. at Bailey Hall on October 22, 2025

***Sign up early to bring Chili to be judged
The first 10 to sign up to bring Chili will be the contestants***

All other attendees are asked to bring cornbread or dessert. Sign up will begin October 5th and end on October 19th

Call Pat Kuntz: 501-204-4385 for questions



Kirk Music Director thanks all for summer special music !

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Kirk is so blessed to have so many talented and gifted musicians! Finding special music for the past summer was so easy. So many were eager and willing to give their time and talents to Sunday morning and even Saturday evening services. Solos, duets, and small ensembles added so much to our worship. I am so grateful for the individuals who are willing to serve musically in the church! We are blessed.

Thanks to all the following for giving their time and talent:

Cheryl Pedigo, Susan and Bob Morrow, Donna and Randy Toney, Sharon Gardner, Patty Barnes, Kathy Allison, Sarah Owen, Melissa Sonnen, Kathleen Kinney, Ron and Tina Kneisler, Patty Nance, Sue Engelbert, and Angela Villamette.

Contributed by Tina Kneisler, Kirk Music Director



From left, Kathleen Kinney, organist, Sharon Gardner and Melissa Sonnen performed "Like A River Glorious" July 13th.



"Changed 4 Good" provided special music, May 25th. From left, Patty Nance, Angela Villamette, Tina Kneisler, and Sue Englebert.

Bob Morrow photos



Above from left, Sharon Gardner, Kathy Allison, Sarah Owen, Patty Barnes, Melissa Sonnen, and Tina Kneisler sang "Here I Am Lord," August 31.

Susan Morrow (left) and Cheryl Pedigo sang "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," June 8th.



Shepherd Groups provide camaraderie, support, and good food!

The Kirk Shepherd Groups have been around nearly as long as the Kirk itself. Our first pastor, Reverend Ernie Smith, created them in early 1980s. The Kirk was rapidly growing, and Rev. Smith wanted a way for members and newcomers to get to know each other more personally.

Smith formed the groups by drawing names out of a bowl. Each lasted for two years, then the bowl was brought out again. There were many groups initially. The two-year policy remains still and this year the groups are due to change. There was one group named "The Black Sheep" that refused to disband. Ask Dottie Rector about that...

In addition to social connections, the purpose of the groups was and still is to:

- Provide an avenue of prayer for each other on a regular basis
- Provide a communications network for emergencies to ensure each member was notified
- Help the church minister to those in need with transportation, food, etc.
- Assist the pastor by informing them of illness or other issues requiring their attention
- Provide a meal to families of a former member who gather for their loved one's memorial service.

Each of the original groups had a leader and together with the members each decided what they preferred to do together. Previously, one group took an overnight trip to Mountain Home where they dined, listened to music and embarked on a scenic train ride. Another popular activity was to attend an evening Traveler's game in Little Rock.

Today, there are 5 Shepherd Groups. As the church membership itself has aged and become smaller so have the groups. The original sorting bowl has been put away. Now members choose their own group(s), often by their meeting schedule. Currently, all of the groups meet for a meal at a local restaurant. As Jean Fisher, the current Lead Shepherd has said "Those that dine together share more than a meal".

A different group member chooses the restaurant and coordinates the meeting each month. Comments from members of the groups include:

"Nothing like friendly, good conversation over a tasty meal" one Group 3 participant commented. Another commented "we like the mix of Saturday night and Sunday participants that we don't usually see."

Group leadership isn't difficult. It involves coordinating the members once or twice a year to sign up to host a dinner or activity, making sure the word gets out, and keeping track of members in need.



Shepherd Group 2 enjoyed a Tex-Mex treat on Friday, July 18th, at El Padrino restaurant. From left, clockwise: Nell White, Bob Corwin, Marian Thiel, Judy Corwin, Woody White, Barbara Mulley, James Wagner, Bob Huff, Vianne Huff, and Kelle Wolf. This group meets the third Friday each month for lunch in or near the Village. *El Padrino staff photo*

(Continued from page 6)

This is the year that groups will change – officially in January. A “traditional” group that does various activities will be offered again. With 52 state parks, many museums, plays concerts, not to mention many festivals, it will be good to have a group that takes advantage of the many Arkansas opportunities.

If anyone has other ideas, please tell Jean Fisher jeanf39@att.net. If you would like to sign-up for a group of your choice or make any comments send her an email. During October and November, Jean will be spreading the word about the groups and asking that you participate in as many as you like and think about being a group leader.

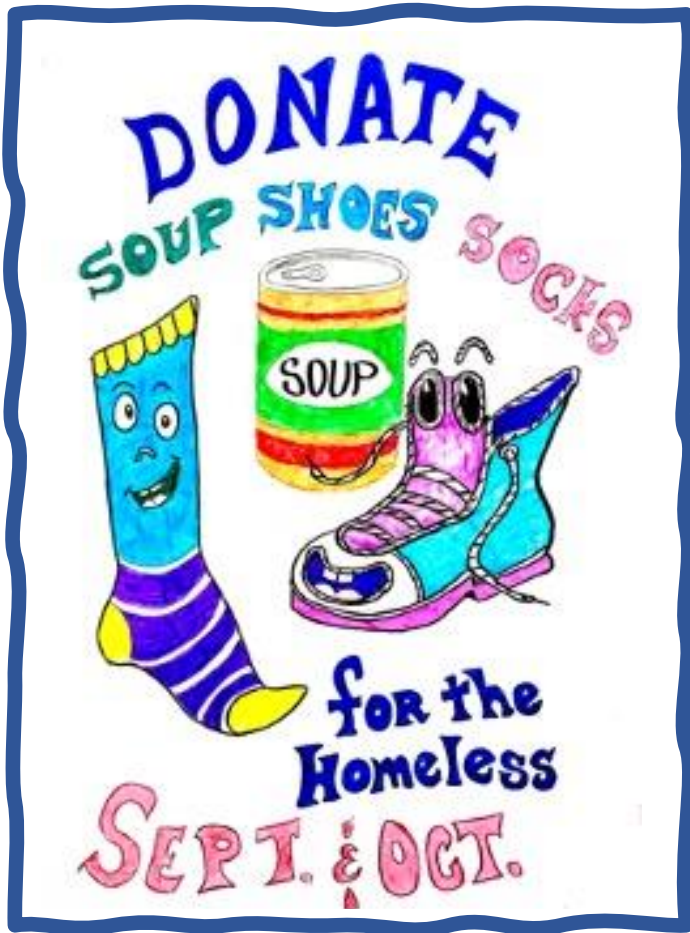
Contributed by Sarah Owen, Member, Communications Committee



On right, the Breakfast Shepherd Group Ggroup 1) enjoys spending time together at Debra's restaurant on the last Friday morning of each month. Clockwise from left: Pat Koller, Marilyn Seitz, Janette Wiard, Bill Wiard, Dotty Rector, Gary Rector, Judith Rosenthal, Karen Ammann, Jerral Johnson, Della Reimers, Jim Reimers, Mike Seitz, James Knox. *Photo by Bill Wiard*



Shepherd group 5. First row, from left, Carol Clark, Susan Pendergrass, Frank & Cindy Morgan, Ron Lovett, Ruth Richards, Eve & Don Webb, Gary & Dotty Rector, Daryl & Barb Henry, Jay & Martha Nielsen, Paul and Joyce Hayek. *Staff photo*



Socks, Shoes, & Soup campaign continues through October

The Missions Committee of the Kirk is again collecting Shoes, Socks and Soups for Jackson House and the homeless. Tammy, at Jackson House is so pleased we are again collecting S,S &S she will even come pick them up.

Bring your new or gently worn Shoes and Socks and pull-tab Soups to Bailey Hall where you will find boxes along the window wall and a rack for shoes. The collection will continue through **October**.

For inspiration, check out the hilarious shoes, socks and soups as depicted by Kirk artist Bev Carpenter in a sign displayed in Bailey Hall (left).

Your closet will look better, you will feel great, the Missions Committee will thank you and the homeless will be grateful for Shoes, Socks and Soups.

Contributed by Judith Rosenthal, Missions Committee Moderator

Original poster art by Beverly Carpenter

FALL BIBLE STUDY



The Call: The Life & Message of the Apostle Paul

by Adam Hamilton



Tuesdays
10-11 am @ the Kirk
Sept. 9 - Oct. 14

Class Leader:
Madison Pedigo

Presbyterian
Kirk in the Pines
275 Asturias Dr.

Contact:
kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com

"The Call" A new Fall Kirk Bible Study

The Kirk Fall Bible Study, offered by the Kirk Christian Education Committee, continues in Bailey Hall from 10 a.m..

Week five will be October 7th in Bailey Hall and Week Six October 14th in the Kirk Office Conference Room. This class follows the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys and is guided by the intriguing book written by popular author Adam Hamilton – "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul."

Each class begins with a brief introductory video presentation by the author. The class leader is Madison Pedigo.

For more information contact Susan Morrow

susu2morrow@gmail.com or
kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com

Financial Report- Year to Date Aug. 31, 2025

	<u>Total Cash</u>		
Checking Balance	\$34,883		
Money Market Balance	\$50,033		
Receipts/Disbursements	Aug-25	Actual YTD	Annual Budget
Receipts			
General Fund	\$22,680	\$263,349	\$340,811
Other Receipts	\$195	\$15,240	\$98,901
Total Receipts	\$22,875	\$278,589	\$439,712
Disbursements			
General Fund	\$19,616	\$235,871	\$409,074
TPF Disbursements	\$845	\$15,735	\$30,638
Total Disbursements	\$20,461	\$251,606	\$439,712
Total Net Income (Deficit)	\$2,415	\$26,982	\$0
Kirk Endowment (Aug. 31)		\$1,112,461	
Kirk Restricted Funds			
Choir		\$12,610	
Library Memorial		\$3,267	
Garden		\$229	
Memorials		\$120,727	
Missions		\$2,200	
Luke 12:48		\$346,520	
Maack-Ormsbee		\$56,706	
Total Restricted Funds		\$542,259	



CALLING ALL SINGERS ! Join us for *Ceremony of Candles*

The choir would like to extend an invitation to any interested singers to join us for our Christmas program *Ceremony of Candles* (Joseph Martin) which will be presented December 6, 2025. We will rehearse the program during our usual Wednesday rehearsals starting October 15th. We would love for you to share your voice with us for this short season (or for the entire year!). If interested, please contact Tina Kneisler, Director of Music at 803-629-4929 (email jahbiri@aol.com). 9

Pastor's Corner

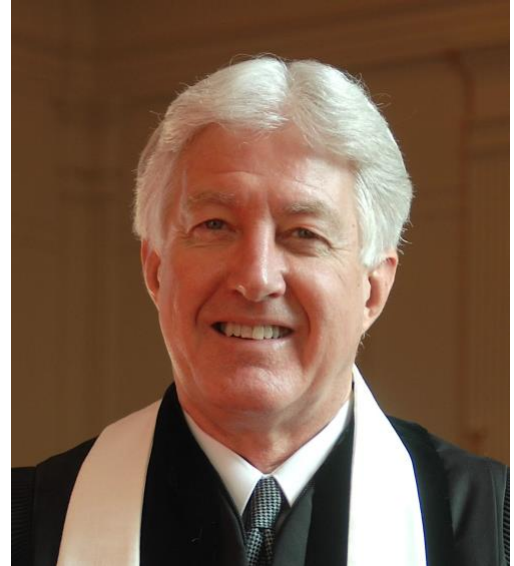
Dear Friends,

As you know, I grew up a conservative Baptist. No longer in vogue, even in Southern Baptist circles, we had what was called the Six-Point Record System. When you came to church each Sunday morning, you were to bring your offering envelope. Printed on the envelope was a report card of your "Christian activities" for the week. You were to place a check mark by each that you fulfilled... Present (for Sunday School) and on time, Bible brought and read daily during the week, offering brought, lesson studied, staying for "preaching" (a euphemism for worship), and contacts (meaning you invited someone to come to church with you). Do these, and you were a good and faithful Christian.

Trust me, we took this very seriously.

My friend John Pierce, who grew up under the same expectations, suggests that other points should have been added:
 Loved my neighbor (who's a #\$\$%^&&#**)
 Treated people fairly this week regardless of race and social status
 Late to church because I stopped to help a stranded mother and child
 Paid the utilities bills for my neighbor who lost his job
 Took a vacation day to build a wheelchair ramp
 Tutored some challenged kids after school
 Stood up to my co-worker's racist rants
 Gave my work bonus to disaster relief.

Johnny, evidently, was always a troublemaker.



Pastor Randy Hyde

Accountability is good, no doubt. However, if I understand my Bible correctly, Jesus had only a two-point system: love God and love one's neighbor. How you do that... well, that's a matter of conscience, isn't it?

Appreciatively,
 Pastor Randy

October Sermons

- October 5 *World Communion Sunday:*
Faith On Its Knees
 Luke 17:5-10
- October 12 *Approved*
 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- October 19 *When the Going Gets Tough*
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- October 26 *Good At What We Do*
 Luke 18:9-14

The Clerk's Corner

**Ruth
Hamilton**



For several months now, the Revisioning Team has had, as a priority, the search for what they called Missing-In-Action (MIA) members—those people that we hadn't seen or heard from in several years. Most of them are still on our rolls but we don't know what is going on in their lives. The question is, "what has happened to them and did they still want to maintain their membership at the Kirk."

Enlisting the aid of Wendy Gage, the Session Elder responsible for Member Outreach, a search was begun. It turned out that Wendy was a great detective. She was in contact with almost all of them or found some other method of verifying their situation. Most of them had moved from the Village to be closer to family as they aged. Unfortunately, we learned that many had died. Others had become members in churches in their new community.

A few asked to be removed from the rolls. There were even those who said they wanted to keep their membership in the Kirk because they will be returning to join their spouse in the Memorial Garden. Of those that were still in the Village, some had changed churches and others wanted to continue to be a member, but with limited involvement.

All in all, we were in contact with over 50 people. It was a wonderful way to reach out and touch missing members of our church family and let them, or their family, know we still have a place in our heart for them and that we pray for them as they continue their journey with Christ, our Lord.

Highlights of the September Stated Session Reports—September 12, 2025

Deaths since August 8, 2025: Halene Strautman, August 15, 2025, Emily Faulk, August 25, 2025, LuDean Walston, September 8, 2025.

Church Statistics as of August 8, 2025:
Members—193 Households—130

Presbytery Meeting: Oct 10-11, Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock



It's Time to Pray!

Our church home, the Kirk in the Pines, is a very special part of our lives. Here we worship, pray, learn, make music, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Kirk needs your prayers. Consider praying **daily** for our Pastor Nominating Committee that the Holy Spirit will lead the committee to the one who is chosen to lead us as pastor. And while we wait, pray also that the Holy Spirit will heal our church and help us preserve the unity of the body of Christ.

Consider committing today to pray every day for the Kirk in the Pines.

Ruth Hamilton, Clerk of the Session



DON'T MISS THIS !
Duo Nuovo-Oct. 26, 3:00pm
Echoes and Dialogues: Music in Conversation

The Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village Symphony Guild is delighted to open its 2025–2026 Classic Concert Series with **Duo Nuovo**, a compelling collaboration between Arkansas Symphony Orchestra musicians Dr. Andrew Stadler (trumpet) and Ariya Tai (violin/piano). Their program, *Echoes and Dialogues: Music in Conversation*, will be performed on **Sunday, October 26 at 3:00 p.m.** at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

Dr. Andrew Stadler is Adjunct Professor of High Brass at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. He holds the position of second trumpet with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas.

Violinist Ariya Tai has played with multiple symphonies nationally and internationally. She currently lives in Houston, TX, where she maintains a private studio and performs with local notable ensembles.

General admission is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at:

symphonyguild.org (your email confirmation serves as your ticket) or at the door. The concert will last approximately one hour and will be followed by a meet-and-greet with the artists.

Contributed by Susan Morrow, Member, Communications Committee

LEARN TO QUILT !!!

Tuesday NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Come and have fun making a quilted **9-patch wall hanging** for the **Christmas Holidays** with us. Kits with all necessary materials are furnished. You will learn how to piece the squares, quilt it, add sashing, borders, bind your quilt and give it holiday jewels to make it sparkle.

Class size is **limited**, so contact us early. There are several color choices. If you have a small sewing machine, **please** bring it so you are comfortable sewing. If you do not, a few machines will be available. Kit Cost is **only \$39** complete and all proceeds will be given to the Church. The all-day class (9-4) will be at the **Kirk in the Pines**

Please email: SonnenArtStudio@aol.com NOW so we can prepare your **PERSONAL** quilt kit.



Sponsored by Member Outreach 12



Happy dates



October Birthdays

1 Martha Nielsen	16 Jim Erickson	25 Janette Wiard
3 Charlotte Massey	18 Gene Carlisle	Jerry McAnarney
Clark Mowry	20 Rowena Easter	27 Randy Toney
8 Jim Reimers	21 Sissy Wilson	29 Woodie Barefield
13 Bill Morrow		

October Anniversaries

17 Cindi & Jim Erickson	44yrs	20 Linda & Ted Hommema	52yrs
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Special Announcement:

We have recently transitioned to a new membership database. If you notice inaccuracies in the spelling of your name or the date of your birthday or anniversary, please email kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com.



*An Excerpt from The Divani
Shamsi Tabriz, XXXVI*

All through eternity
Beauty unveils His exquisite form
in the solitude of nothingness;
He holds a mirror to His Face
and beholds His own beauty.

he is the knower and the known,
the seer and the seen;
No eye but His own
has ever looked upon this Universe.
His every quality finds an expression:
Eternity becomes the verdant
field of Time and Space;
Love, the life-giving garden of this world.
Every branch and leaf and fruit
Reveals an aspect of His perfection-
The cypress gives hints of His majesty,
The rose gives tidings of His beauty.

*Jalaluddin Rumi
13th Century Persian Poet*



*Contributed by Sarah Owen,
Communications Committee Member*

Kirk Calendar



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

**Bible Study, “The Call”- 10:00
Bailey Hall- October 7, 14 (Conference Room)**

Chili Cookoff Oct. 22- 5:30pm

Symphony Guild Concert- Oct. 26, Sanctuary, 3:00pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

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

Pilgrimage- October 4- 10:00
Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands- October 14 -
9:00

Kirk Choir Practice – 3:00,
October 1, 8 15, 22, 29 Choir
Room

Committee Meetings

Session- October 10, 10:00

Administration- October 7, 9:00

Communications- October 1, 1:45

Cong. Care- October 23, 10:00

Finance- October 9, 10:00

Member Outreach- October 1, 12:45

Missions- October 9, 3:00

Kirk Staff

Randy Hyde- Pastor

Tina Kneisler- Music Director

Kathleen Kinney- Organist/Pianist

Ruth Manweiler- Pianist (informal worship)

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth- Secretary

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

Wendy Gage- Member Outreach

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

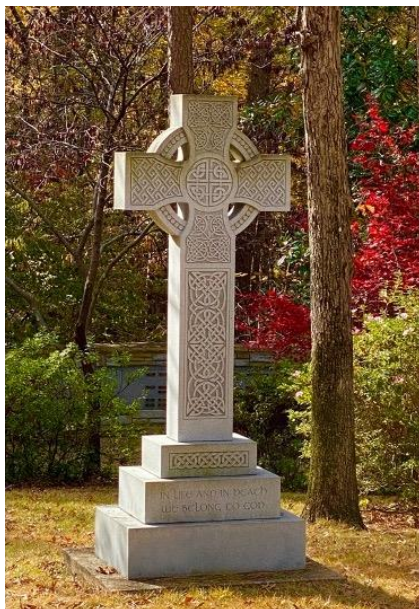
Jane Moore- Worship (Trustee)

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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