



36 attend merry PW December Gathering

There was a festive holiday spirit in the air at the December 8th Presbyterian Women Gathering in Bailey Hall. Tables were decked with seasonal décor and a wonderful lunch, prepared by the “Greenhorns” was served to appreciative participants. The delicious repast was topped by even more delectable deserts.

The program for the event was provided by Kerri Daniels, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services Development Director. Daniels spoke on current status at the Monticello, AR campus including the 30 plus children in care divided among two houses for males and one for females.



The “Greenhorns” were responsible for the delicious meal and scrumptious deserts. From left, Carol Clark, Priscilla Hayek, Jane Moore, Susan Pendergrass, Becky Wakefield, and Judith Rosenthal. *Patty Barnes photo*

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When We Meet

Sunday Traditional Worship

10 a.m.- Sanctuary

Saturday Informal Worship

4 p.m. CST, 5 p.m. CDT- Bailey Hall



(continued from page 1)

The campus has been at maximum census since recruitment of new CEO Nathan Chenault. The children cared for by Vera Lloyd have increasingly difficult situations involving drug addicted parents, neglect, abuse, and histories of violent behavior. Vera Lloyd is one of few agencies in Arkansas that offer residential treatment for these children. The Kirk Mission Committee and many Kirk members contribute to Vera Lloyd.

The program included collection of baking goods including cookie, cupcake, and cake mixes, icing, baking decorations. These had been requested by Vera Lloyd to provide an activity for the children during downtime over the Holidays. 34 bags of baking supplies were prepared and given to Daniels. The program ended on a high note with the singing of Christmas carols with Ruth Manweiler at the piano and led by choir members in attendance. *Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator*



Priscilla Hayek surveys a generous selection of deserts.



36 women participated in the PW Gathering. Shown here (from left, clockwise) Barb Henry, Alice Cox, Sue Mayer, Joyce Hayek, Ruth Manweiler, Norma Stevens, Barbara Mulley, Ann Buchanan, and Sharon Gardner.



Kerri Daniels, Vera Lloyd Development Director.



34 bags of baking goods were collected for the children in residence at Vera Lloyd.

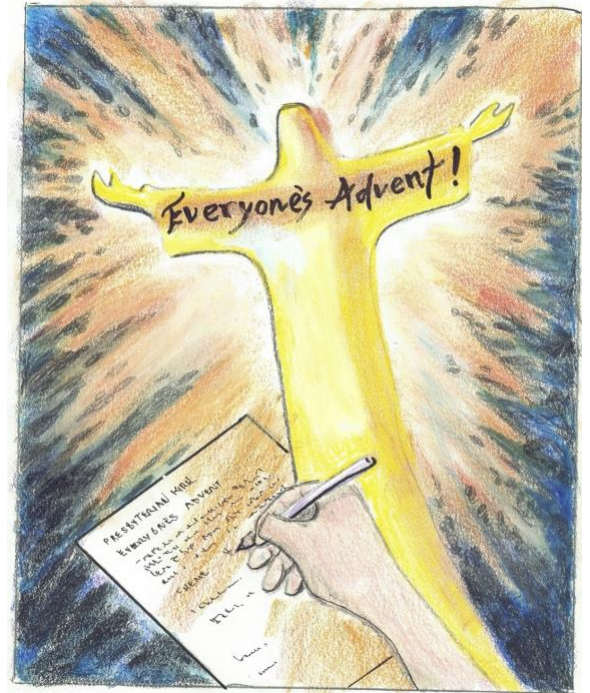
A big thank you to all contributors to "Everyone's Advent"

Many thanks to our talented pool of Kirk writers, artists and contributors. You all turned the 2025 Advent devotional guide into "Everyone's Advent" which without your stories and reflections would have been "No One's Advent."

So many positive comments were heard about all the daily reflections and the added personal nature of many. These writings were the icing on the cake for the season as the faithful lives of our contributors sang out on every page.

Special thanks go to:

Beverly Carpenter (artwork), Carol Clark, Judy Corwin, Sharon Gardner, Ruth Hamilton, Priscilla Hayek, Arnie Holtberg, Pastor Randy Hyde, Molly Mac Hyde, Tina Kneisler, Reverend Dick Mayer, Bob & Susan Morrow, Martha Nielsen, Susan Pendergrass, Dotty Rector, Reverend Mike Seitz, Marilyn Seitz, and Randy and Donna Toney. *Contributed by Susan Morrow, former Christian Education Moderator*



Thanks for your support of the 2025 Angel Tree

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in this year's Angel Tree project.

Mary Ann Reynolds and I delivered over 60 gift cards and presents to Vera Lloyd, Ouachita Children's Center, and Mountain Pine Head Start Center. We even got to meet the 2 and 3 year old children at Mountain Pine Head Start. They had Thank You notes ready for us signed with their handprints. So sweet!

Thanks to you Christmas was a lot brighter for these children. *Contributed by Vicki Rosenquist*



Mary Ann Reynolds and Vicki Rosenquist with gift laden 2025 Angel Tree. *Photo unattributed.*

In Memoriam

David Edward Salmen

David Edward Salmen was born in Joliet, IL, on March 23, 1943. He left to go to the Lord on December 28, 2025. He was predeceased by his father Gus Salmen, mother Helen Salmen, sister Carol (Salmen) Bugner, and brother Glen Paul Salmen.

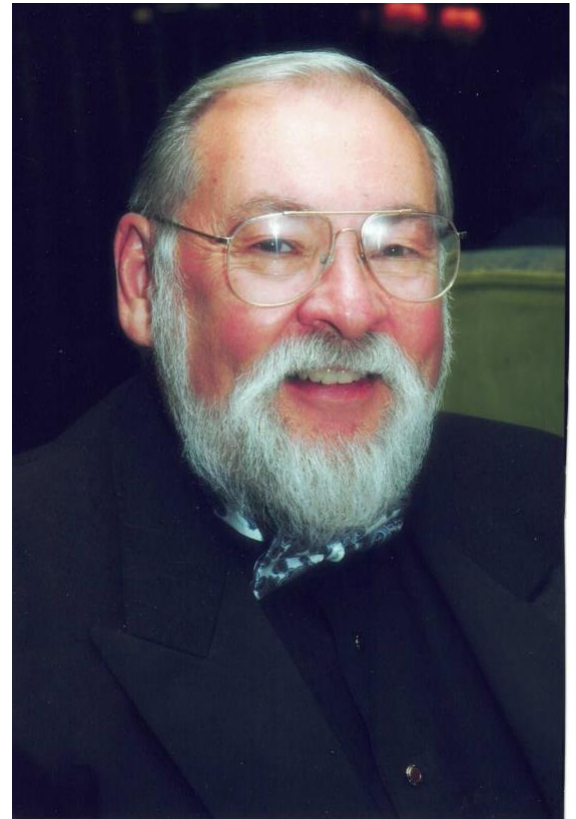
He attended St. Mary's Catholic grade school in Buffalo Grove, IL, and high school at Elva Vernon High School in Lake Zurich, IL. Dave worked in the aluminum processing business for 38 ½ years. He remained in the same building and held management positions for 35 of those years under seven different companies.

Gail and David were married in Long Grove, IL, December 5th 1970, and moved to the Village in July of 2001.

Old cars were one of David's joys. His 1931 Chevy sedan was his "baby." The Chicago Bears and Cubs brought him many tears and yet wonderful moments when they finally obtained the top titles.

Dave attended Sacre Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Hot Springs Village. Opening the door and greeting people as an usher on Sunday morning was a highlight of his week.

He was active in the Knights of Columbus and served as an HSV Breakfast Lion for 23 years.



David Edward Salmen

He will be missed by his sixteen nieces and nephews and numerous "greats." A date for a memorial mass will be announced at a later date.

He will be much missed.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death ^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

James Clare Cordell

James Clare Cordell passed away on December 22, 2025, in his home in Houston, TX, with his loving wife Debbie Moore Cordell by his side. He was 105 years old.

Jim was born in Gardner, KS, on February 29, 1920, to Joseph Stephen and Grace Garrison Cordell. He was one of nine children, seven boys and two girls, all deceased.

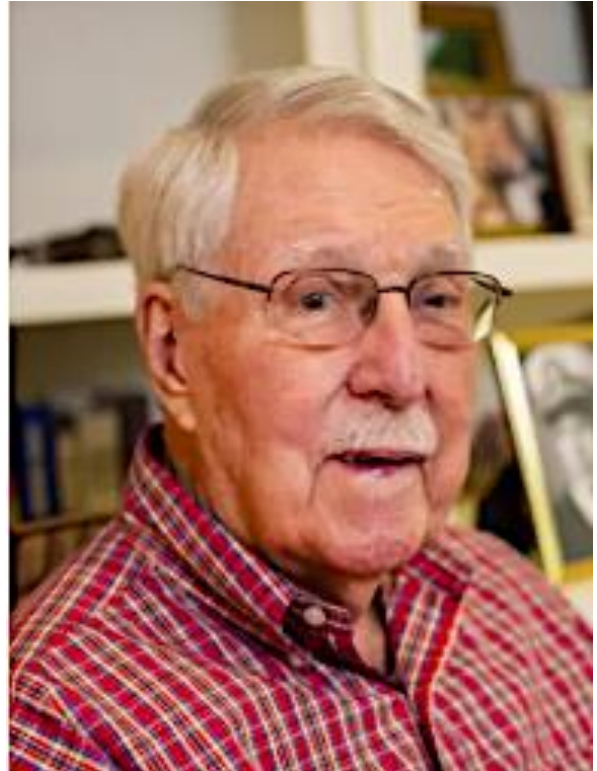
He graduated from Gardner High School in 1938 and University of Kansas with a BS in Petroleum Engineering in 1942. During this period, he was active in sports earning letters in football, basketball, baseball, and track and field in high school and in track and field in college. This love of sports participation continued throughout his life, culminating in gold medals in track and field, pole vault, high jump, javelin, and race walking in the Senior Olympics into his mid-eighties.

In 1943 he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. After attending diesel engineering school at Cornell University, he was assigned as Engineering Officer on LSM242 and participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was honorably discharged in August 1946 as LTJG.

Jim spent his career in the oil and gas industry and later in banking. To further his professional career, Jim attended the University of Texas 1946-47 and received an MS Petroleum Engineering. He later attended Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU 1967-69 where he was a Graduate with Distinction.

His life also brightened when he married Debra Moore Romero, December 1983. Jim and Debbie eventually moved to Houston, TX. Jim was an active member of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, volunteering for many things. He also was a member of the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Church in Hot Springs Village, AR, where he was on the Fellowship committee and active in Arkansas Presbyterian Cursillo/Pilgrimage.

Jim Cordell is survived by his wife, Debbie and three children, James C. Cordell, Jr. his (Martha) of LaGrange, TX; Meg Lane Cordell of Crystal Lake, IL; and Charles Garrison Cordell (Lynn) of Houston, TX. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



James Clare Cordell

There is no service planned at this time. If you would like to remember Jim, please consider a donation in his name to Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX, 77024, or Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, 275 Asturias Drive, Hot Springs Village, AR, 71909, or to a charity of your choice.

John 14:1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

New leadership steps up for Saturday Informal Worship

Please remember to thank Martha Nielsen and Ruth Richards for taking on leadership roles for the Saturday Informal Worship service. Both have been longtime supporters of the service and are Elders of the Kirk as well. Martha prepares the order of worship and serves as projectionist. Ruth is the Lay Worship Leader. Susan Pendergrass, who attends the service enthusiastically adds, "Ron Lovett is our loyal and eager doorman always ready to help with anything. And Michael Erickson also plays a huge role in coordinating the computer presentation each week with Pastor Bill."

Martha has personal connections to the service. Pastor Bill Seitz, her nephew, provides Pastoral leadership with scripture selections and delivering the weekly message. Martha's brother Reverend Mike Seitz and wife Marilyn also attend the service. Mike also serves as Communion Leader. Ruth Richards and Ron Lovett have attended and been supporters of the service for many years.

In addition to being held in the late afternoon, the interactive and upbeat Saturday service includes the singing of praise songs and a time for sharing joys and concerns as well as



traditional hymns, scripture readings, and sermon. Holy Communion is held on the first Saturday of the month. Fellowship occurs before the service.

Ruth Richards comments "We are a welcoming service and share God's love with all. It is an informal service where you do not have to dress up as God doesn't care what you are wearing. We sing some praise songs and hymns but most of all Bill Seitz's message to us is what really matters." She emphasizes "All are welcome. God loves each of us."

The Kirk is very grateful for the commitment of all these to this important and meaningful worship opportunity at the Kirk. *Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator*



Rowena and Dick Easter with their basket of Christmas cheer.

Carol Clark photo

Congregational Care provides Christmas cheer for 24 special Kirk members

Twenty-four thankful persons received baskets of goodies as Christmas presents from the Kirk. The Congregational Care Committee prepared the baskets and delivered them mid-December to persons in our congregation who would benefit from extra care during holiday season. These special persons received things such as soaps, lotions, long back scratchers, nonslip socks, homemade ornaments, packets of tea, coco, and apple cider mixes, packaged snacks, readings developed by the Christian education committee entitled "Gifts for the Soul", and this year's Advent booklet.

This year, in addition to the congregational care committee, members of the congregation were asked to give items for the baskets, and the response was very good.

Susan Pendergrass, moderator of congregational care committee, said that recipients were so happy to receive their Christmas baskets. "It brightened their day".

Contributed by Dotty Rector, Communications⁶ Committee member

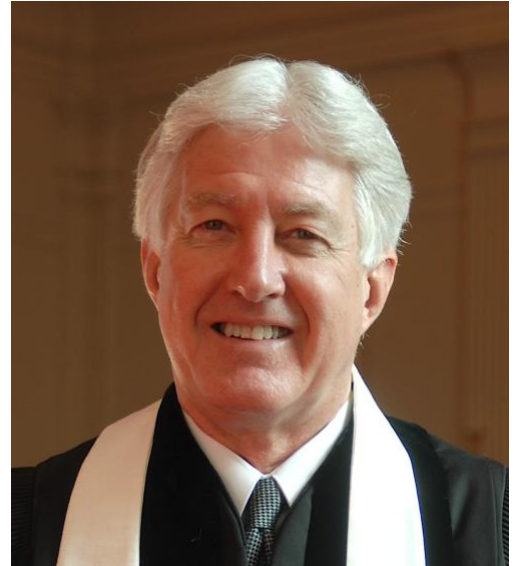
Pastor's Corner

As most of you know, my former professor and mentor, John Killinger, died in June. He still feeds and encourages my soul, and always will. The sub-title to his wonderful book, *Winter Soulstice*, is *Celebrating the Spirituality of the Wisdom Years*. It is an insightful and thought-provoking look at his own life and the lessons it has taught him. He writes about nurturing one's soul...

But the soul does require working at. The work isn't hard, but it needs to be seen for what it is, a way of developing the soul into an instrument of finer sensitivity and understanding. The thing that really constitutes it is paying attention. It isn't simply a matter of studying or making a journey or engaging in some special activity. No, the work begins with noticing, with being present to your own life and history and feelings, with really concentrating on who you are and what your soul is about.

The thing is, each of us is an inimitable, unrepeatable concatenation of atoms and experience, and nobody else has ever known things precisely the way we can know them or has been exactly who we can be. The soul has its own print, just the way fingers do. Our job is to discern that print, to begin to compare notes and records in order to find out who we are and what our souls are really like. We can begin the task early, if we are especially sensitive individuals. But we *must* begin it later, if we haven't done so earlier, for it is the greatest work of our elder years, to learn who we are and how everything that has happened to us fits together to create our uniqueness and unrepeatableness. We do it by noticing, by reviewing the signs by which we have arrived at this point of the journey, by seeing how everything fits together.

As 2026 unfolds, I have decided to take John's words to heart and focus on those few things over which I have a certain degree of control. John has caught onto something that will aid me in doing just that. I hope to *pay attention*... to the things that happen to me (to find a reason in them), to the people I encounter (to find the presence of Christ in



Pastor Randy Hyde

them), and to the challenges that present themselves to me (that which makes for purpose and meaning).

I pass this on to you as a worthy objective. Together, as we journey through the experiences of life and church, let's *pay attention* and then see what happens as a result. It will say a lot about who we are, but more importantly, of what we want to be.

Appreciatively,

Pastor Randy

January Sermons

January 4 **The Word**
John 1:1-18

January 11 **Living Your Baptism**
Matthew 13:13-17

January 18 **Too Light a Thing**
Isaiah 49:1-7

January 25 **Guess Where You're Going**
Matthew 4:12-23

December's Session meeting was one of both looking back and looking forward. What did 2025 bring, and what is lying ahead in 2026. While much has been accomplished, there is much to do in the coming year.

But the first order of business was celebrating and thanking our outgoing Session Elders. With grateful hearts we said goodbye to Sharon Gardner (Finance), Pat Kuntz (Fellowship), Judy Rosenthal (Mission) and Dave Hamilton (Administration). With Sharon's leaving, it was more than just goodbye to her presence on Session. After many years in the Village and several different times on Session, she is moving back to Minnesota to be near family. We will truly miss her.

Both Pat Kuntz and Judy Rosenthal are stepping away after two 3-year terms and will get to relax and just sit in the pews. I say "just", but we all know they will keep actively involved with all sorts of service to the Kirk. And as we said goodbye to Dave Hamilton, we immediately welcomed him back as you elected him to serve a second 3-year term. (Presbyterian polity allows an Elder to serve two consecutive 3- year terms before they must stand down for at least 3 years.) We also welcomed the other two newly elected Elders, Richard McPheters, replacing Judy Rosenthal on Mission, and Donna Toney, now in charge of Christian Education.

Susan Morrow, who was the Elder in charge of Christian Education is replacing Sharon Gardner. She is moving to the Finance area for the last 2 years of her term. So, of the 4 open seats on Session, only three have been filled. That leaves the Fellowship area without a head. The Nominating Committee is still in search of someone to sit on Session and head that committee.

The Clerk's Corner

**Ruth
Hamilton**



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

Appreciation and thanks to God for the service of outgoing Elders: Sharon Gardner, Dave Hamilton, Pat Kuntz, and Judith Rosenthal.

Welcome and thanks to God for the incoming Elders, Dave Hamilton, Richard McPheters and Donna Toney and their willingness to serve.

Deaths since November 14, 2025: None

Church Statistics as of December 12, 2025:
Members-162, Households-115

Correspondence: e-mail note from the Carlises—they are moving to Texas

Pastor Hyde reported that he received an email from Madison Pedigo indicating that he and Cheryl will be relocating to Dallas, Tx.

Kathleen Kinney is no longer on staff. A replacement will be found. Until then, Donna Toney and Fran Stroud have agreed to substitute at the organ/piano for the Kirk.

December 6th Kirk Choir program brings Christmas spirit to the Kirk in abundance!



The Kirk Choir used the occasion of the choir's Christmas program to update their photo. The program, "A Ceremony of Candles," by Joseph Martin was a moving experience for the full sanctuary who attended. The choir, accompanied by Donna Toney and with guest flutist sang arrangements of some favorite carols and some new compositions that will prove to be regular parts of the choir's repertoire. The program also featured the Hot Springs Village Carillon Ringers which added extra Christmas joy. Donna Toney also was featured playing "Still, Still, Still, A Christmas Berceuse" also by Joseph Martin.

The program provoked many comments. Director Tina Kneisler shared "The feedback I received was all positive and glowing! I am so proud of what we do together. A BIG thank you to the choir and their hard work and fine musicianship that made this event so very special."

Above, front row, from left, Dotty Rector, Kathy Allison, Norma Stevens, Judy Pugh, Eve Webb, Melissa Sonnen, Joyce Hayek, Sharon Gardner, Director Tina Kneisler; middle row, from left, Linda Hommema, Fran Stroud, Sarah Owen, Susan Morrow, Barb Henry, Cindy Morgan, Patty Barnes, Donna Toney (choir member and accompanist); back row, from left, Abe Stroud, Bob Morrow, Bev Raskin, Randy Toney, Darell Fisher, Mike Terry, Ron Kneisler, Dave Hamilton. *Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator Robert Sonnen photo*

My mother loved poetry. She memorized and repeated many of her favorites. She wrote this note to me many years ago. "I do not feel poetically creative so will share with you one of my favorites—often say it when trying to sleep."

Dotty Rector, Communications Committee Member



*"Every morning lean thine arm awhile
Upon the windowsill of Heaven
And gaze upon the Lord.
Then, when thou hast the vision in
thine heart,
Turn strong to meet the day."*

Financial Report- Year to Date Nov. 30, 2025

	<u>Nov-25</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
	General Fund	General Fund	General Fund
Revenues	36,264	343,782	312,410
Expenses	25,830	313,795	374,985
Change in Net Assets	10,434	29,987	-62,574
 \$1 Mission Giving	 282	 2,406	 3,208

Kirk Finance Committee is grateful for your giving

As 2025 ends, your generous gifts continue to inspire your Kirk Finance committee and speaks of our congregation's commitment to serve Christ.

Through December 31, your giving has enabled the Kirk to meet all current operating expenses and total Mission giving commitments. Continuing efforts by the Session and Kirk staff to reduce operating costs have paid off with actual expenses as of December 31 below budget expectations for 2025. In addition, the Kirk Mission giving has exceeded the 2025 budget goal as we reach out to serve Christ in the community.

The outlook for 2026 also looks bright as we finalize our budget plans. The response to our pledge drive has been very encouraging. Sixty-six households have provided estimated 2026 giving estimates with ten of those being new Kirk estimated giving participants. Overall, there is an increase of five households providing estimated giving compared to 2025. We are so grateful for the generous support.

With gratitude,
Susan Morrow, Kirk Finance Moderator

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9



Happy dates



January Birthdays

9 Mike Carpenter
10 Priscilla Hayek
12 Debra Cordell

14 Karen Ammann
Darell Fisher
Mike Terry

22 Jerral Johnson
25 Linda Hommema
31 Marcia Bauer

January Anniversaries

3 Dotty & Gary Rector
23 Jean & Darell Fisher

45yrs
66yrs

24 Janet & Randy Hyde

56yrs



The 2026 Coffee Calendar needs YOU!

.... sign up to make coffee hour happen all year long.

Look for the Coffee Calendar in Bailey Hall and please volunteer to help.

Thanks
Vicki Rosenquist



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office) **Office closed Jan 1.**

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

Pilgrimage Renewal-Jan.3, 10:00, Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands-Jan. 13-9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 3:00, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

Committee Meetings

Session- Jan. 9, 10:00

Administration- Jan. 13, 10:00

Communications- Jan. 7, 1:45

Congregational Care-Jan. 22, 10:00

Finance- Jan. 8, 10:00

Mission Committee- Jan. 8. 3:00

Kirk Staff

Randy Hyde- Pastor

Tina Kneisler- Music Director

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

Donna Toney- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Susan Morrow- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Wendy Gage- Member Outreach

Richard McPheters- 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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