

**Westover View**  
**Westover Hills Presbyterian Church**  
**January 2021**



**"You are the light of the world..." Matthew 5:14**

**Pastor Carl McCormack**



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Rev. Carl McCormack, Honorably Retired, is a “second career” minister having answered the call to ministry after working at a variety of positions in public service and the business world.

He is a native Texan, attended the University of Texas in Arlington, and received his Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary ('95). He has served as the installed minister for FPC Woodward, OK, FPC Harrison, AR, FPC Malvern, AR, and as an interim for FPC Rogers, AR and FPC Graham, TX. At the end of his interim in Graham, Carl accepted the call and served as their installed minister until his retirement in July 2019.

Carl and his wife, Terry, live in Little Rock and will celebrate 40 years of marriage this next June. Terry retired from her career as a Masters Level Registered Nurse specializing in Emergency and Critical Care. Their

son, Preston, and his family live in Little Rock and their daughter, Jennifer, lives in Mansfield, Texas. They enjoy spending as much time as possible with their four grandchildren Silas, Nora Jane, Reid, and Caiden.

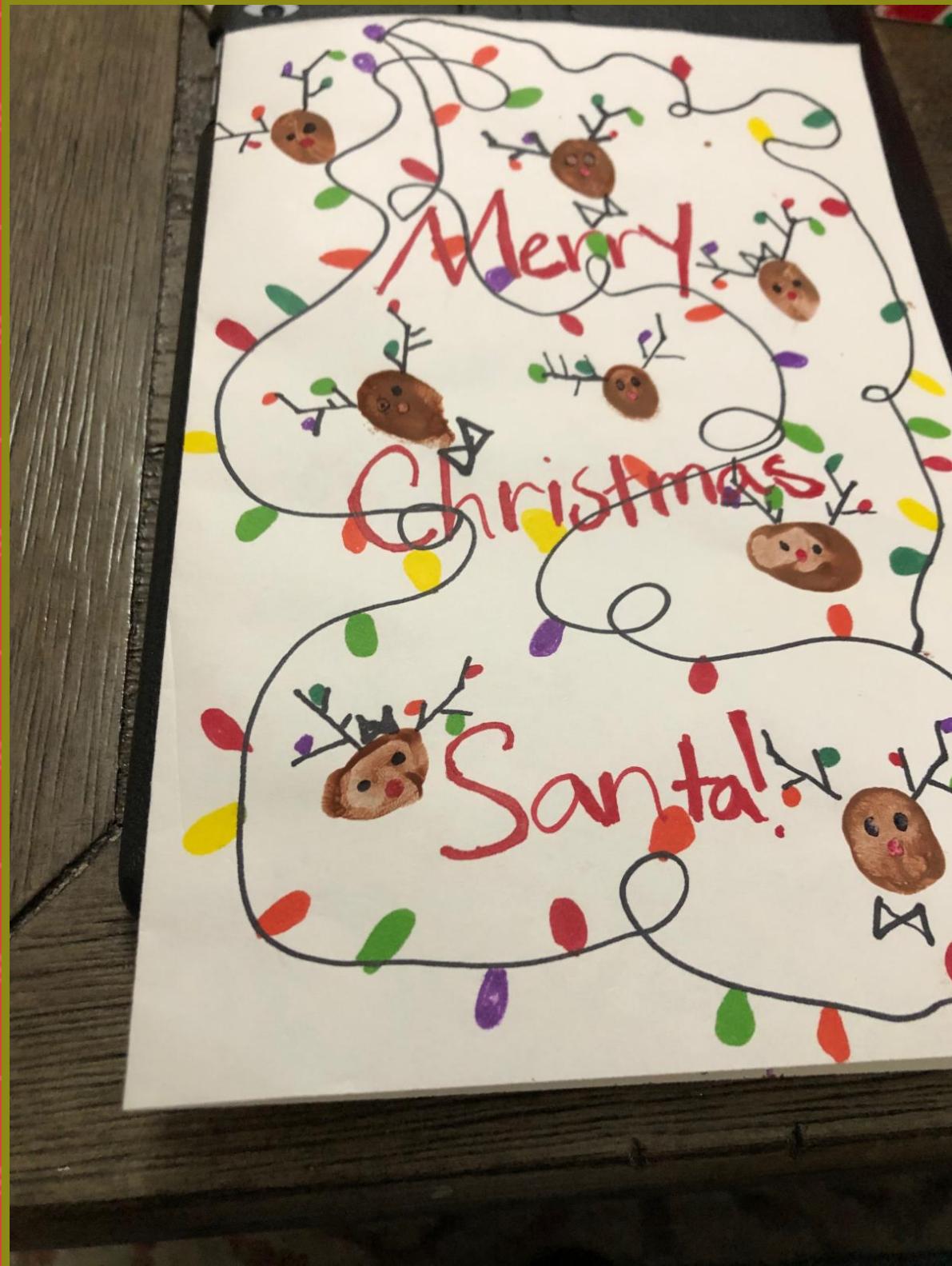
I would like to take a moment in the middle of this pan-holiday-demic to say just how blessed Terry and I feel being a part of the Westover Hills church family. We had a chance to wave our greeting to some of you at the drive-by Advent celebration, and I have managed to meet more of you by phone and/or electronically by zoom. You are a church deeply engaged in a variety of community ministries and I think that is wonderful. I just hope I can keep up with you.

While I have been working to learn as much as I can about this church, its ministry, mission, and its history, I have sensed a high level of excitement for the future of the church and, at the same time, a certain level of anxiety. So, if you will, allow me to speak to that. There is much to be excited about. Our Lord is busy at work in this neighborhood, and the greater community. The birth of Christ that we recently celebrated was not just a one-and-done event. Christ is being born in the hearts and minds of people all around us, every day, and it is up to us to play the role of the midwife, metaphorically speaking, to nurture, teach, lead and inspire; to feed them with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation; to help them as they become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), and welcome them into the family.

If we must spend any time being anxious, let us anxiously seek to discern where and what God is doing all around us, that we might be able to join our Lord in the work already begun. I think it will be my role to educate, lead by example, and be your Spiritual guide throughout this process, helping you see the vision that God has for Westover Hills Presbyterian Church as best as I can discern it.

You and I have work to do, and I trust we will go about our work prayerfully. We have trudged through the longest year we have ever experienced, and now I think 2021 will be a year of renewed hope and strength for our church.

May God bless you and yours this new year season,  
Carl McCormack



## WHPC Session Notes

### ***Stated Meeting, November 8***

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that 35 pledges have been returned as of November 6. Pledged totals so far are \$217,389 total, with \$166,849 for the operating budget and \$50,540 for the building fund. By comparison, the 2020 budget was \$365,000, \$122,000 of which was for mortgage payments. Current revenues are 73% of expected annual revenue; building fund contributions are currently at 1/3 of expectations.

According to Stewardship and Finance Committee moderator, Mary Ellen Holder, total cash on hand is currently \$393,000.

Session voted:

- to withdraw \$50,000 from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation account to cover mortgage payments for five months. Also, voted to cease paying the child-caregiver Allison Smith while WHPC is not holding in-person worship; we had been paying her throughout the COVID shutdown until now.
- to keep the Pastor Nominating Committee membership at four members and not to replace Ellen McEwen, who has resigned.
- not to fill the position of Elder, Class of 2023, which Courtenay Jackson has vacated. Since Session is drawing down its membership from the current 14 elders to 12 by 2022, they decided to reach the target of 12 elders in 2021 (instead of 2022).
- to authorize the Reopening Group to deal with requests by external groups to use WHPC facilities.
- to approve the release of the Transition Team report to the Pastor Nominating Committee so they can use the information contained therein for PNC discussions.

The Session will study (informally) the Transition Team report and the Transitional Pastor report together on November 15 by Zoom.

### ***Called Meeting, November 17***

The session voted to approve the Transitional Pastor Search Committee recommendation to hire Rev. Carl McCormack as our half-time interim starting November 29, 2020, for one year (start date since revised to November 23).

### ***Stated Meeting, December 13***

Session acknowledged receipt of thank you's from the following recipients of Westover Hills benevolence: PCUSA Mission Agency (\$4,523.46 - One Great Hour of Sharing offering), Vera Lloyd (\$380), Arkansas Foodbank (\$350), AR Coalition for Peace and Justice (\$330 – August MAP), and Community Family Enrichment Center of Arkadelphia (\$525 – September MAP).

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that 61 pledges have been received as of today. Pledged totals so far are \$319,648 total, with \$249,628 for the operating budget and \$70,020 for the building fund. November pledge

receipts were \$19,531 and mortgage collections were \$6,800.50. The amount payable on the mortgage is now \$1,544,480. She also shared a 2021 working budget.

Finance Committee chair Mary Ellen Holder reported the following fund balances with Texas Presbyterian Foundation: Building Fund - \$151,573.42; Insurance Fund - \$14,657.31; and Cotham Lecture Fund - \$216,996.91.

Christian Education Committee was authorized to arrange a joint confirmation class with neighboring Presbyterian churches.

Voted to approve a January Mission and Advocacy Project (MAP) to ask the congregation to underwrite Walmart gift cards as a way to support the Presbyterian Women programs for the incarcerated.

Voted to relieve the Preschool from making its usual payments to the church for the remainder of the 20-21 school term, that is, through May 2021. In these next months, the church will assume responsibility for approximately \$2,900/month of preschool expenses. If the additional ten students now expected register for Spring, the Preschool will add back one teacher.

H. K. Stewart reported that the Pastor Nominating Committee, which is now meeting regularly, will break for holidays, and in January will begin sending a monthly update to the session.

Incoming elders and deacons will be installed on January 17, 2021. Carl and others are working on a way to observe laying on of hands. Most likely, the ordination service will be recorded separately and then attached to the regular January 17 worship service.

The annual meeting of the congregation is to be scheduled for January 24 by Zoom. At that time, each committee and task force is to present its annual report, which will be compiled and shared electronically with the congregation. Also, the 2021 Nominating Committee will be elected at that meeting.

Session members will write a) a summary of the informal November 15 Session discussion of the Transition Team report and Transitional Pastor Rev. Kris Crawford's final report, and b) a response to Rev. Crawford's report for consideration by the Session. The Session will then send

the latter response to the presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

### ***Called Meeting, December 20***

Session approved the 2021 budget and accepted modified terms for the Westover Hills mortgage loan from the Bank of McGehee. The interest rate will be reduced from the current 5% rate to 3.25%, for 5 years, effective January 1, 2021. At the end of the 5-year period, the interest rate on the loan will revert back to no more than 5%, unless a new lower rate has been negotiated at that time.

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## **Membership & Communication- Online Worship and More**

**Viewing Website and Attending Virtual Worship:** It appears that more people are “attending” the WHPC Sunday worship services online than would have been in the church building on Sundays before the coronavirus shutdown! Questions had been raised as to how to monitor/discriminate the number of “hits” to our church website. After Charlie Frith discovered that the data is already being collected, Damaris started our process of gathering and distributing it and Jane is continuing the process. Sermons are far and away the most popular section of the website. People also access worship services through FaceBook (“RC Nash” or “Westover Hills Presbyterian Church”) or at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (under “WHPC Worship Service”).

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### **Brenda Lelansky**

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Brenda Lelansky was born on a Marine base in Quantico, Virginia. During her childhood, she moved to New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Georgia, and finally back to Alexandria, Virginia - which she considers her hometown.

Brenda first relocated to Arkansas in 1982, joining WHPC shortly thereafter. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in Medical Technology from UAMS, and currently works for CHI St. Vincent.

Brenda has two daughters and four grandchildren, and her hobbies include drum circle and gardening. She also loves Christmas music, decorating for Christmas, and baking Christmas cookies. Brenda has sung with the WHPC Choir since 2015 and enjoys attending the Ruth Circle Bible study. When asked what she likes the most about WHPC, she stated it is the welcoming and caring members of our congregation, whom she looks forward to seeing again in person in the near future.



### *Advent Parade*

About 25 individuals and families caravaned past the Preschool entrance on the first Sunday afternoon of Advent to pick up their special Advent box and receive a special Advent greeting from a merry band of Westover Hills folks; see link to photos below.

Another team of folks, Nancy Blackstone, Eileen Joyce, Sally Browder, Nancy Passini, and David Austin, put

together a box full of Advent items, which include a tree ornament, candle for lighting at the Zoom Christmas Eve service, and the elements needed to construct a paper crèche.

To see parade photos, go to [WHPC Advent Parade](#) and click on the Play button or go to this link/ website:  
[https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/0Bw38ot4OiwjPP7r2l7AXKeow#WHPC\\_Advent\\_Parade](https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/0Bw38ot4OiwjPP7r2l7AXKeow#WHPC_Advent_Parade)

Photos, in order, include Eileen Joyce; Nancy Passini; the box handout team of Jane Johnson, Nancy Carter, Terry and Carl McCormack; Jane, Terry, and Carl; the exterior of an Advent box; the interior of same. David Austin was also present.

In 2020, we may have done without the usual Advent worship services and candle lighting—but thanks to the Worship and Arts Committee and Fellowship Committee, many of us have had a lovely new way to celebrate the season.

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### *“Alternative” Alternative Christmas Market*

#### **“The Market Is Closed!”**

4700 dollars for gifts that keep on giving were donated to mission projects supported by Westover Hills: Vera Lloyd, Stewpot, Presbyterian Women mission initiatives, Fair Trade Coffee, and Solar Under the Sun. Thank you to all vendors and shoppers who made this “electronic” 2020 Alternative Christmas Market a success.

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### **Frith Zoom Thanksgiving – 2020**

For as long as we have lived in Little Rock (48 years), we have celebrated Thanksgiving with family and friends. For several years, we had such a large crowd that we moved our ping pong table from the garage to our great room and covered it with two sheets for a tablecloth.

This year turned out a little different. Our daughter and grandson live in Allen, TX and it was a joint decision for them not to come to Little Rock. Our son and granddaughter live in Little Rock and it was another joint decision for them not to come to our house for Thanksgiving. We decided to try something different. Adam and Donna had a smoked turkey and a beef brisket and offered to share.

On Thanksgiving about noon, we opened the garage door and opened the trunk of our car, and they brought the turkey, brisket, pumpkin pie, and several sides and placed them in the opened trunk. Our contribution was dressing, sweet potato casserole, rolls, and a pecan pie, which we put in the trunk for them to pick up.

At 2:00 pm, the people in Dallas and the people in Little Rock filled their plates and sat down at their tables, and started a Zoom Session. For the next two hours, we ate and chatted and ate some more. Not like our past Thanksgivings, but it was the best we could do, and everything was delicious. Along with so many other things we are thankful for this year, we are very thankful for the technology that allowed us to be together while apart.



## Mission and Advocacy Committee

### MAP Projects for the Incarcerated

#### ***WHPC Mission & Advocacy Project for January 2021***

For the January 2021 MAP (Mission and Advocacy Project), we will provide Walmart gift cards to purchase supplies for literacy classes at the jail and Think Legacy programs at the Hawkins Women's Prison. The Prison Ministry group at WHPC could also use some Amazon gift cards to purchase books for literacy

classes. We are thinking about reading *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*.

At some point in the Spring of 2021, we will need scholarships to pay for incarcerated women in the Distance Learning program of Poetic Justice Arkansas. The WHPC team is still in their pilot study and will submit our proposal to the Arkansas Department of Corrections in January for approval. This will happen early in 2021 and will provide additional opportunities for WHPC to participate.

## Family Promise Program Update

The Family Promise program has made adjustments to accommodate the needs of homeless families during the pandemic. During the months of November and December, no families were being housed in churches or motels. Instead, Family Promise helped families with the emergency payment of utility bills, rent, groceries, and even assistance procuring used furniture. Family Promise staff and board members are working on details for renting a couple of two-bedroom apartments for short periods of time to temporarily house homeless families. Family Promise continues addressing urgent needs in the local community by supplying five hand washing stations in downtown Little Rock and at the Jericho Way Day Shelter. The program also helps the homeless with bus passes for 30 days, job referrals, and prevention services.

The Family Promise Executive Director, Cynthia Ramey, has been able to procure grants to support these services. Special fundraising events and donations also support the Family Promise program.

Churches who hosted families during non-pandemic times are now asked to continue supporting Family Promise by volunteering to be grocery shoppers, grocery sorters, event planners, tutoring children, and answering the phone to direct requests. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Eileen Joyce 501.350.3949, or Nancy Passini 501.650.3002.

**Being involved is the best way to put faces on God's hurting people and those who are dedicated to helping them.**

## Stewpot Receives a Special Gift for Thanksgiving

Stewpot recently received 3,000 pairs of socks from Bombas. The socks were delivered to Charlie Frith's house and will be delivered to the Stewpot as soon as renovations are complete on the downstairs Clothes Closet. More information on reopening the Clothes Closet will be coming very soon.

Bombas was founded on the philosophy of donating socks to those in need but has evolved to go deeper into the community. The more clothing items they sell, the more they donate. As they grow, their giving and community efforts will continue to grow right alongside them.

One purchased = one donated.

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## Vera Lloyd Pettus House Christmas

Since the Pettus House boys were unable to come to Little Rock to shop this year, WHPC Presbyterian Women donated money to Vera Lloyd for them to purchase gifts the boys had requested. In addition, PW also filled a stocking for each boy. The WHPC Vera Lloyd account purchased a new microwave for the House and also donated money for a Christmas pizza party.





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MIX & MATCH DEAL

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\$5.99  
each

2-item minimum. Handmade Pan Pizzas, Bread Bowl Pasta, and Bone-In wings will be extra.

ORDER NOW



Preschool Update:



**Westover Hills**  
**PRESCHOOL.**



The preschool is decorated and anxiously awaiting Christmas! The little ones have written their 'letters' to Santa and he even wrote them back! We are wishing for a safe, white and merry Christmas for all!



Pajamas Day!



Someone was missing from the preschool Christmas celebration on December 18. Santa couldn't make it this year! Because of COVID, he had to lie low in his North Pole workshop. He had to socially distance. And how can anyone with a big belly and a big white beard socially distance when each and every child wants to climb up on his lap to whisper fond Christmas wishes in his ear?

The next best thing for the children was to write their wish list for Santa on a big piece of butcher paper and send it to the North Pole. And the next best thing for Santa was to write back to the children. Here is Santa's Christmas greeting to the Preschoolers:

Hello from the North Pole! Ho! Ho! Ho!  
I got your list of toys for Christmas and  
let me tell you I have all the elves busy  
in the workshop getting everything ready  
for you.

Mrs. Claus is feeding all of us really  
good foods so we can work our hardest.  
You remember to eat all your vegetables, too.  
The reindeer are ready to go. They are  
dancing and prancing around and  
can't wait. Rudolf has shined his nose  
really bright in case it's foggy on  
Christmas Eve.

Gotta go. Mrs. Claus has dinner ready  
and she doesn't like it when I'm late.  
See you soon. BE GOOD!!!

Santa



May all the magic  
and joy of Christmas  
fill your heart.

Santa,  
Mrs. Claus  
all the Elves

(Writing that is in the card)

Hello from the North Pole! Ho! Ho! Ho!

I got your list of toys for Christmas and let me tell  
you I have all the elves busy in the workshop getting  
everything ready for you.

Mrs. Claus is feeding all of us really good foods so  
we can work our hardest. You remember to eat all  
your vegetables, too. The reindeer are ready to go.  
They are dancing and prancing around and can't  
wait. Rudolf has shined his nose really bright in case  
it's foggy on Christmas Eve.

Gotta go. Mrs. Claus has dinner ready and she  
doesn't like it when I'm late. See you soon. BE  
GOOD!!!

Santa

## Presbyterian Women (PW) News

### Presbyterian Women Incarcerated Outreach

#### At Hawkins Women's Prison in Wrightsville

The new year looked promising in January with 64  
students in the Think Legacy re-entry program at  
Hawkins Women's Prison in Wrightsville. By March 11,  
Rev. Sally Johnson and Kathy Rateliff knew it would be  
their last day with the class until we had an effective  
vaccine against COVID-19 and the prison was reopened  
to visitors/volunteers. In those long months, Sally and  
Kathy have stayed in touch with the inmates, providing

small books to the graduating Think Legacy class, and purchasing Easter treats and supplies for the classroom.

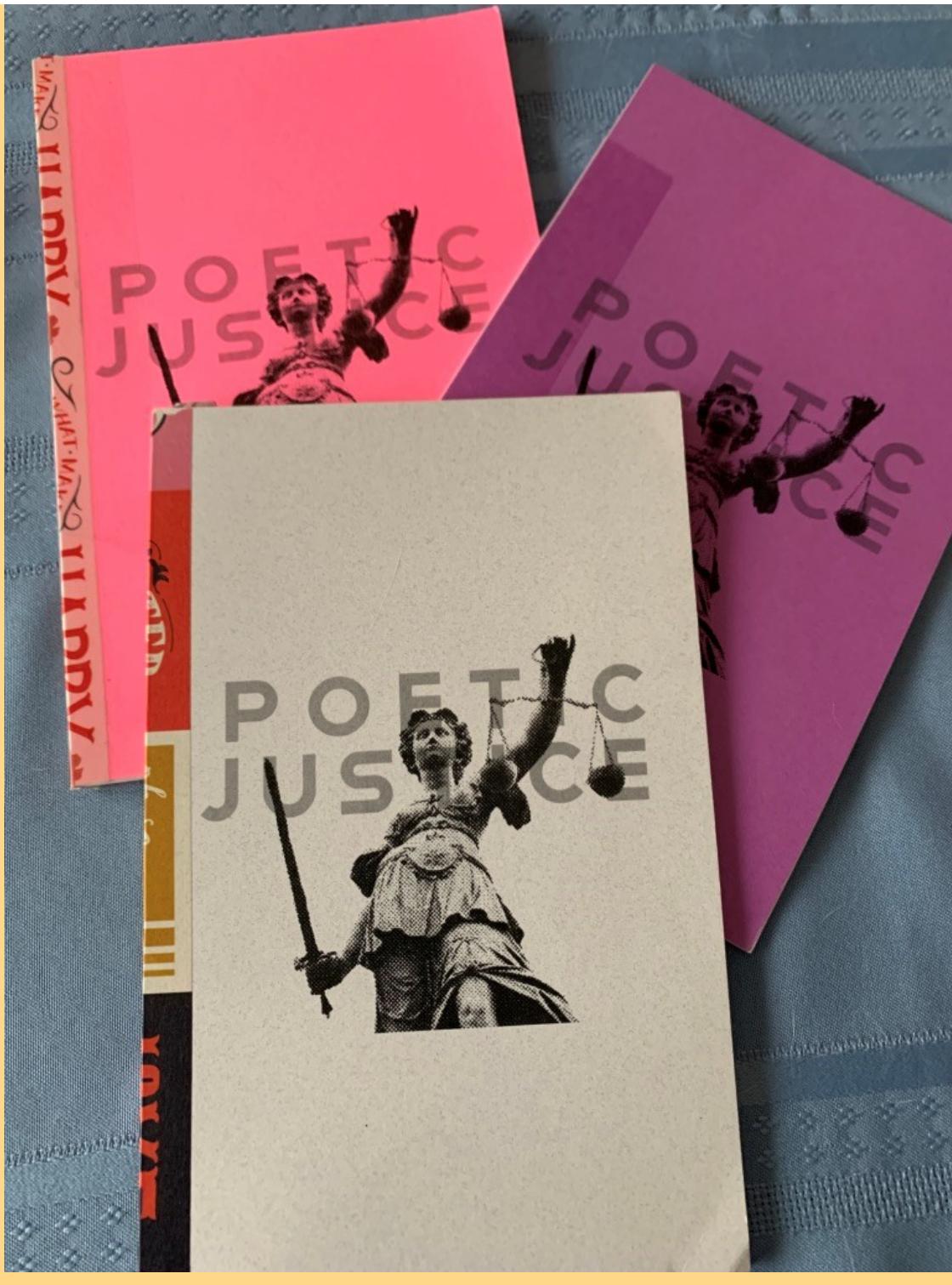
### **Poetic Justice (PJ)**

In partnership with Katherine Shoulders, another Think Legacy volunteer (wellness and yoga teacher and Dance to Be Free Instructor), Westover Presbyterian Women have made plans during the COVID hiatus to bring the Poetic Justice program (initiated in Oklahoma) to Arkansas. When Westover PW's were granted the Arkansas rights to the program, we anticipated making a pitch to the Arkansas Dept. of Corrections in the summer of 2021. Instead, we jumped ahead and initiated a pilot program for distance learning with the Oklahoma Chapter of Poetic Justice.

The volunteers, including three Westover members, are each partnered with a female Oklahoma inmate. The partners exchange identical writing assignments with each other. Since an unprecedented 345 incarcerated women signed up for the Winter 2020 distance writing class, the Oklahoma PJ chapter, which provided training for volunteers, has appreciated having reinforcements from Arkansas to supplement Oklahoma's volunteers.

The PJ program has made a very big impact on both volunteers and inmates. Staying in during COVID takes on an entirely different meaning when you are in a mandatory group setting and have no control over any aspect of your own life. Oklahoma female inmates have it very tough. If they are in dorm type housing, they may be confined to their bunks for 23 hours a day except for bathroom breaks. Hard to even contemplate. Free world writing partners are asked to email their partner weekly, just be chatty and try to have a normal conversation. Additionally, writing assignments for the free world partner are sent to the incarcerated partner via email.

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## Juvenile Detention Center Art Program

The art program is on Zoom during December for kids at the Juvenile Detention Center. They are making holiday ornaments, star shaped dream catchers, and using tiles to create two coasters. Thanks to architect/engineer Kay McCollum, the graham cracker houses will again be favorite project of the year. Decorating a candy house is always a hit, with as much candy being eaten as going on the houses. We'll miss being with the kids in person and asking about their houses. Some details are pretty intriguing, for example, the child who put a door on the roof. When asked, he replied that the door was for the "safe room." Another built a pretzel fence and put all sorts of animal crackers inside. "Because they will be safe," he answered when asked about his fence.



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Kay McCollum, Chief Graham Cracker House Engineer readies houses for teens at the juvenile detention center to decorate.

She has done this for a number of years, because no one else can get the house to remain upright once the roof is placed on top!



Robin Tutt gestures toward a student's dream catcher during a zoom art class with teens at the Pulaski County Juvenile Detention Center.

The **Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility (jail)**, has contended with several issues the last few months. Between quarantining units, COVID testing, internet issues, etc., the literacy classes have experienced disruptions. The men's class studied the indigenous tribes of Arkansas while the women's class is reading *The Hunger Games*. Eileen Joyce said the weekly writing assignments give her and Carolyn Nash helpful insights about their students.

Reading is a great escape for students and for any incarcerated person. Westover is blessed to have a partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) that allows us to pick up books for our classes and to stock the unit carts for the entire jail. CALS also provides 8-10,000 books to Arkansas's state prisons each year.

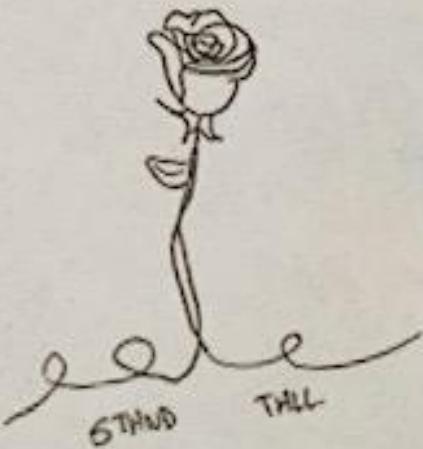


dream big.  
dare for the moon,  
dare for the stars.

the  
ESCAPE



I will face many defeats  
in life, but I will never  
let myself be defeated.



## "Zine" Experience

How do you tell your life story, your interests, your essence, your passion on one letter-size piece of paper? Everyone in the Poetic Justice Pilot Program is learning that with a few folds of that paper you can make an eight-page little magazine, hence “zine.”

Artistically challenged, but game to try, both the incarcerated writing partner and her free world partner exchange their zines. During a training session, Poetic Justice founding chapter Oklahoma shared several from past classes. These pieces of art, some heartbreakingly lovely, tell stories about lives put on hold, of women freeing their minds to escape bars. Words, drawings, fabric, pictures or stick people – your own design. Cannot wait to see what they all look like!

## Honoraria



In  
Honor  
Of

### ***Honor Gifts August-October 2020***

#### ***Honorees Listed First, then Donors***

Bob Quinn- Louise Terzia

Ferncliff Three Amigos- Kay & Ray Stephens for

PW Thank Offering

Donna Callaway- Betty Glenn

Eileen Joyce- Betty Glenn

Kay & Ray Stephens- Adrienne Kulousek for

PW Thank Offering



## **Memorials August -October 2020**

### **Honorees Listed First, then Donors:**

Andrew Quinn- Louise Terzia

Don Jordan- Ann Bell

Harriet Stockley Barnett- Kathy Rateliff for PW

Incarcerated Outreach

Harriet Stockley Barnett- Kay & Ray Stephens

for Bldng Fund

Mildred Appleton- Betty Glenn

Jack Patterson- Betty Glenn

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