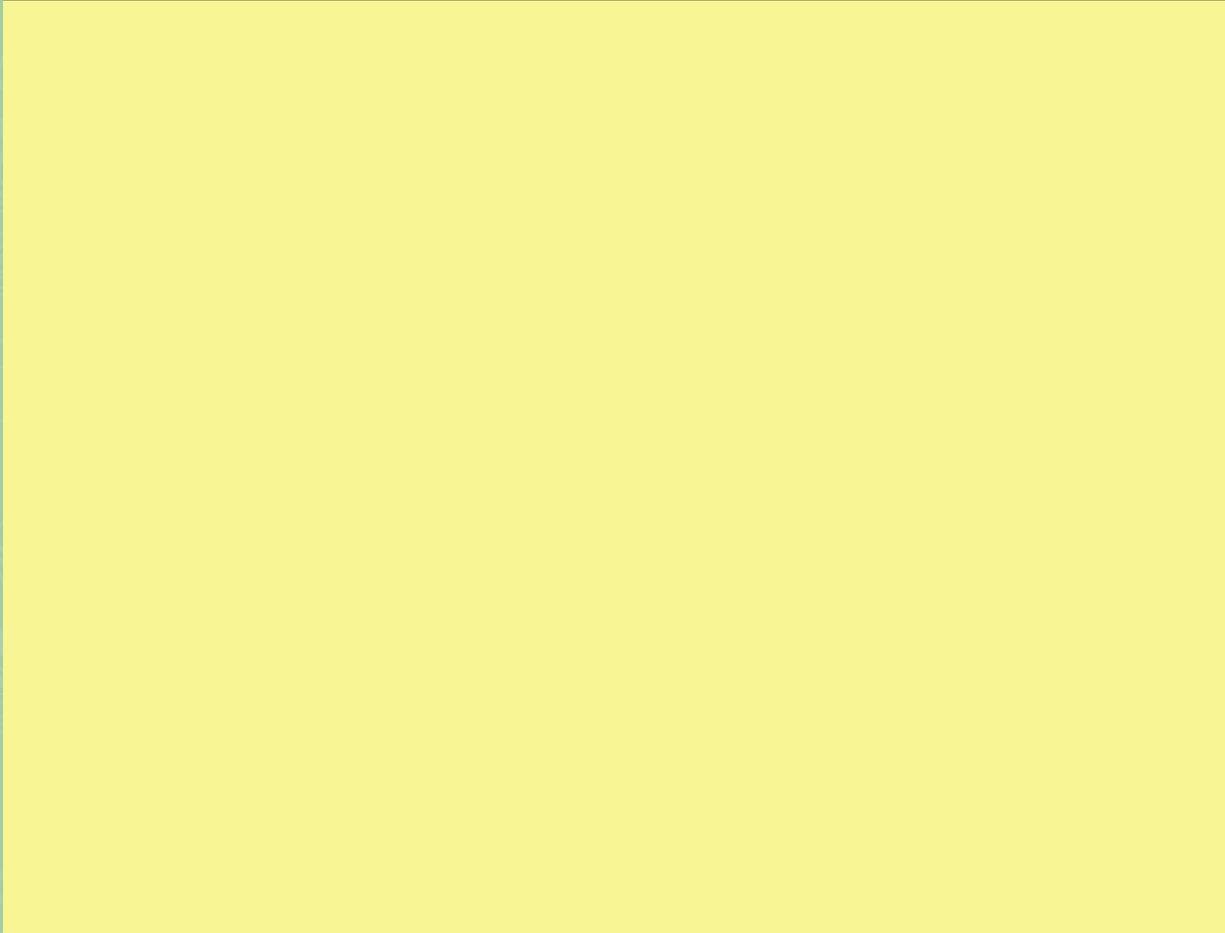


**Westover View
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
March 2021**





Peace after the snowstorm. A walk by Forest Heights Elementary School. Picture courtesy of Jane Estes.

WHPC Session Notes

Session Notes – January Meetings

January 10 stated meeting (by Zoom):

H. K. Stewart agreed to draft a session response to the Transitional Pastor's Report, already received as information.

Elders Liz Branch and David Stricklin were selected as session representatives to the 2021 Nominating Committee.

Courtenay Jackson's membership was transferred to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Elder candidates Betty Glenn, Eileen Joyce, and Julie Naylor were examined and approved; Betty and Eileen

will be installed on January 14 and Julie will be ordained and installed. Deacon candidates Alice Ahart and Nancy Blackstone were examined and approved for ordination and installation; Carolyn Nash will be installed on January 14.

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that we closed 2020 in the red. In December we collected \$9,701 toward the mortgage debt. Tammy will email year-end contribution statements next week.

Finance & Stewardship Committee reported that new terms agreed upon with McGehee Bank will save WHPC \$112,860 over a five-year period, At the end of the five years, the interest rate will revert back to 5% unless negotiated at a lower rate at that time. In 2020, \$18,280 extra payments were made to the mortgage principal.

The January MAP Project, gift cards for the prison ministry, was extended through February.

The Preschool Committee reported that 11 new students are expected in January, which will raise the enrollment from 33 to 44 students. Revenues in December improved enough that the Preschool did not have to draw from savings during the month.

Pastor Carl reported reaching out this past week to members, especially those living alone, in the wake of the riot at the US Capitol on January 6. He also encouraged elders to reach out intentionally to members, especially those who live alone or who used to be members at WHPC, and will ask the deacons to call these folks; Some elders volunteered to assist with calling.

January 24 congregational meeting (by Zoom):

At the January 24, 2021 virtual congregational meeting, the gathered members approved the following slate of nominees for the 2021 Nominating Committee:
Kay Stephens – Presbyterian Women; Shirley Garlington

– Deacons; Mac Balkman – WestoverMen; Liz Branch and David Stricklin – Session; Tammy Pflug and John Mac Leod – At-large members.



Elders and Deacons Ordained and Installed

On January 14, meeting on Zoom, Pastor Carl installed and ordained new officers for Westover Hills. Installed as

elders in the Class of 2023 were Betty Glenn and Eileen Joyce; Julie Naylor was ordained and installed in the same class. Nancy Blackstone was ordained and installed to the office of deacon in the Class of 2022, and Carolyn Nash was installed in the Class of 2022. Marcey Berry, having been installed in April 2020 but not ordained as a deacon, was ordained in the Class of 2021. Alice Ahart will be ordained and installed as a deacon and Ann Bell and Nancy Carter will be installed in the Class of 2022 at a later date.

Typically, all who have already been ordained as an elder place their hands on the newly-ordained officers. Since this service was virtual, the hands this time were autographed handprints made by elders in the congregation, which Pastor Carl then fastened on a prayer shawl for each ordinand. That's how we fulfilled the following requirement in the *Book of Order*. "Members of the session lay on hands at the ordination of ruling elders and deacons; the session may invite other ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament to participate."

Elders



Betty Glenn



Eileen Jovce



Julie Naylor

Deacons



Alice Ahart



Ann Bell



Nancy Blackstone



Nancy Carter



Carolyn Nash

Session Notes– February 14, 2021

The session met by Zoom on Sunday, February 14.

Alice Ahart was ordained and installed as Deacon in the Class of 2022 and Ann Bell and Nancy Carter were installed in the Class of 2022. For the laying on of hands, Alice put on a prayer shawl covered with hand-prints (including signatures) of WHPC elders.

At the request of Greg Fairchild and Zane Wilson, the Session approved their removal from the church roll.

The annual statistical report was approved for submission to the Presbytery of Arkansas. The current active membership is 124. In 2020, 1 person joined the church, 1 was transferred, 1 child was baptized, and 3 members died.

We received \$24,036.52 in pledges and \$15,157.95 for the building fund in January.

New committee moderators are as follows: Finance & Stewardship – Betty Glenn; Membership & Communication co-moderator – Julie Naylor; Mission & Advocacy – Eileen Joyce; Property & Maintenance – Sid McCollum.

Membership & Communication Committee is arranging to set up cloud computer backup and storage for up to five church computers, including the WHPC office computer, the WHPC financial computer, the preschool director's computer, the preschool office computer, and the pastor's computer.

A second automatic external defibrillator (AED) will be purchased and placed near the fellowship hall.

MAP project for March will be Undie Sundays (to provide new underwear for men and women, mostly homeless people, served by Stewpot Clothes Closet),

Permission was given to the Preschool to offer three play days a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays) this summer.

Virtual communion was celebrated on February 7.

A motion was passed to approve the transfer of \$7,500 from the WHPC Operating Account to the Insurance and Maintenance Fund held at Texas Presbyterian Foundation. This is to cover any emergency expenditures for heating and air in the future.



Jane Estes' King Cake to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Christian Education - During Lent and Beyond

The CE Committee thanks Gordon Garlington for leading a series on the Gospel of Mark during the 5:00 class on Sunday afternoons during Lent. The committee is preparing a confirmation experience for Lyric Rogers and doing explorations and advanced planning for the 2021 Cotham Lectures.

**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/discern 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/watch?v=...) (under “WHPC Worship Service”).

Robin Tutt



Robin was born in Dermott, AR Hospital and lived on a farm near the Mississippi levee before moving into the town of McGehee to be closer to her grandparents. She attended the U. of A. in Fayetteville majoring in accounting, later graduating from the U. of A. Monticello. Robin worked at McGehee Potlatch Corporation and ultimately transferred to a branch in Lewiston, Idaho where she worked as an internal accountant to auditor. She came back to Rogers, AR to work for Scott Paper for approximately five years and was then transferred to Scott Paper in Dover, Delaware. When Proctor and Gamble purchased the Dover plant, Robin transferred to Cincinnati, Ohio. After retirement, she moved back to Arkansas, settling in

Little Rock to be closer to family. Robin joined Westover Hills following the (then) new minister Frank LeBlanc, whom she had met as the former pastor of her sister's church in Morrilton. Since joining Westover Hills, she has enjoyed being involved in Presbyterian Women (PW), Circle, and working on Treats and Treasures. She is also very active in the PW Prison Ministry at the Juvenile Detention Center, providing arts and crafts for young residents. Her favorite thing about Westover Hills is the feeling of being a family member as well as a church member. She loves the camaraderie between the church members, and their support for each other.

Scout Snowden



recently published Scout Snowden's note in the journal's winter edition. His note discusses the constitutional implications of compelled public disclosure of individuals' political donations. Scout is a third-year law student and an associate editor of the UA Little Rock Law Review. He is scheduled to complete his candidacy for a Juris Doctor this May.

Mission and Advocacy Committee

WHPC Mission & Advocacy Project for January and February 2021

The Giving Tree (formerly the Mitten Tree) was placed outside beside the cross during January this year. Baggies of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves hung from the branches (rods) of the tree. A sign close to the street invited anyone who needed a warm hat or pair of gloves to take it. Also, any neighborhood folks who wished to donate something were invited to hang it on the tree. One woman who regularly walks the neighborhood donated some crocheted hats she had made. Nancy Passini happened to see her and thanked her profusely. Hopefully the word about the "free winter mitten tree" will spread and a new outdoor tradition will grow. Thanks to Doyle Hughes, Nancy Passini, and Liz Branch for setting the tree up and taking it down.

Thanks also to all who donated in January and February to provide supplies and books in support of the literacy programs for men and women at the Pulaski County Jail and for the women in Hawkins Women's Prison.

The amount of cash donated as of the end of January was \$425, which gave a real boost to the literacy programs.

An ever-present need of those who are homeless is new,

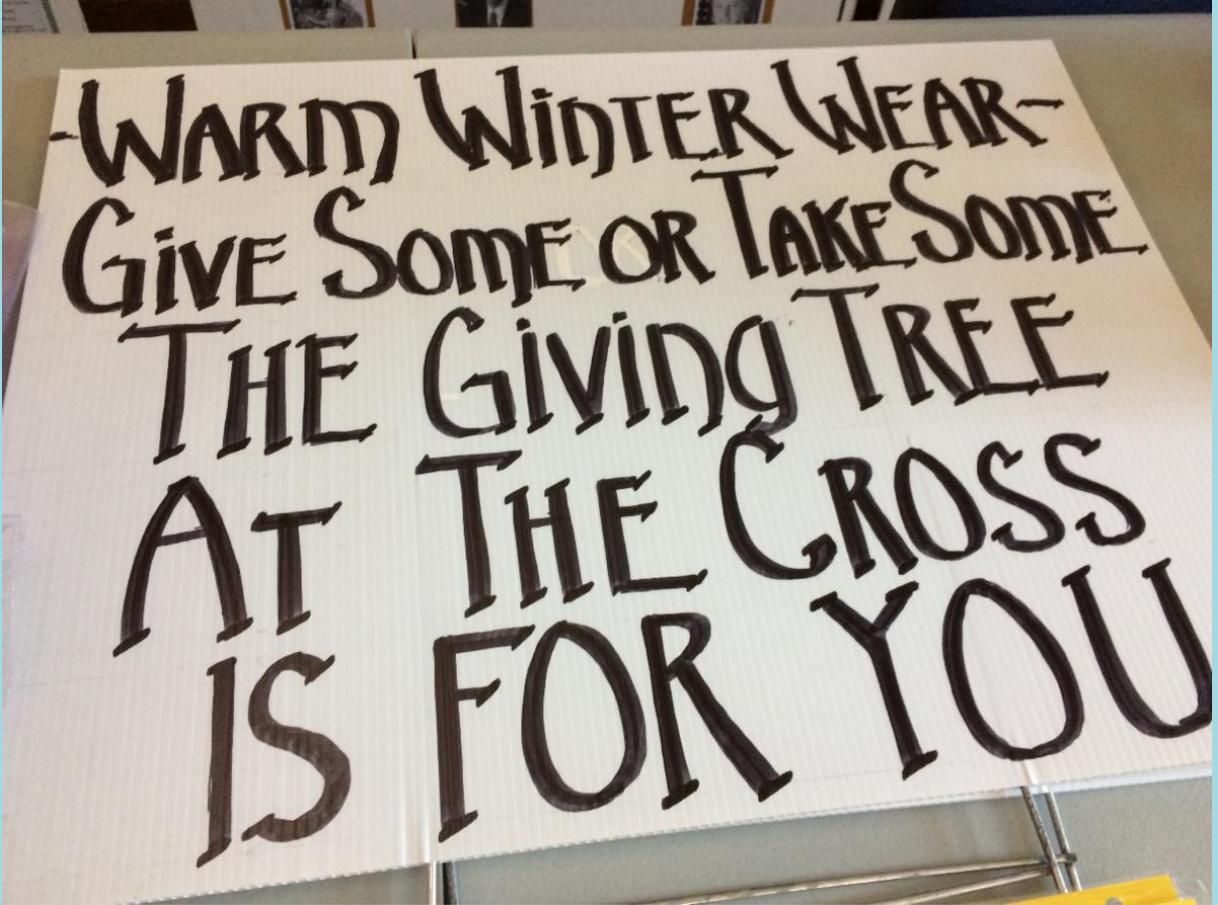
clean underwear. That is the focus in March. Men's medium and large-size tee shirts, boxers, and briefs are needed. Medium and large sizes in women's underpants and bras are also needed and welcomed. White socks for both men and women in medium and large sizes are in demand especially during the cold months. A basket for donations will be located in the alcove between the outside and inside doors to the church office.

Since shopping in stores continues to present a possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus or related viruses, checks in support of these mission projects can be mailed to the church office with a note on the memo line MAP (Mission and Advocacy) Project. Donated money will be used to purchase underwear items. All underwear will be given to the Clothes Closet at the Stew Pot.



Undy

S u n d a y



Mitten Tree Morphs into the WHPC Giving Tree

The WHPC Mitten Tree of previous years became a community Giving Tree this January. For several weeks, thanks to Doyle Hughes and Nancy Passini's waterproofing and assembly efforts, the formerly inside-only tree proved its versatility for the outdoors.

The tree stood near the cross beside the sanctuary and held a plethora of new hats, mittens, socks, and scarves enclosed in plastic zip-lock bags and clipped on the Giving Tree. Thank you to the many people who contributed to those who passed by and needed warm winter wear. And thanks to Nancy Jordan who lettered the inviting signs that stood by the office parking lot. The remaining giving tree items are going to the Watershed Project, LR; Women and Children First; and Stewpot.



Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet weekly via Zoom and is consulting with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaisons, Alisa Secret and Don Harris, as needed. We are working at present on the Ministry Information Form (MIF).

Just to give you an idea of the place of the MIF in the search process, our PNC has begun its work of defining our church's current ministry and expectations of a new pastor in order to communicate who we are to prospective candidates for the Westover Hills minister position. The MIF is somewhat like the church's "resume."

In keeping with the WHPC mission statement, *Westover Hills Presbyterian Church is, by the grace of God, an open community of faith who come together to serve Jesus Christ and share the message of God's love throughout the world through worship, fellowship, outreach, and education*, we answer these questions on the MIF:

- What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry? Additionally, describe how this mission is lived out.
- How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency?
- How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals?
- Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and/or organization.
- For what specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

These questions require much thought and discussion among ourselves, so we are taking our time to deliberate thoughtfully and with discernment. We ask for your prayers while we are in this important process in the life of Westover Hills.

--Ann, H.K., Nancy, and Sally

Preschool Update



Westover Hills
PRESCHOOL.



Preschool Starts New Semester

Preschool has enjoyed the start of the spring semester. The kids have enjoyed some fabulous days outside for recess and some big adventures during indoor recess days. They have celebrated Fairy Tale Week with a modified royal ball. And studied great artists, recreating some very famous masterpieces.

Preschool is registering students for the Fall '21 school year. If you would like more information, please contact the preschool at westoverhillspreschool@gmail.com.



Kroger Cards

Do you shop at Kroger? Is your Kroger card linked to Westover Hills Preschool community rewards? (The bottom of your grocery receipt will show to whom you are linked.)

Kroger will donate \$.05 for every grocery dollar that you spend to the recipient of your choice. Check it out by going to the Kroger website <http://www.kroger.com> and click on “rewards” to choose the Preschool to receive the Community Rewards bonus. It will not affect your discounts or gas points.

Last year Kroger donated \$199.41 to the Preschool; can you help increase that total? Your help is appreciated! Call Shawn Mittedorf at 501.666.0880 or Laura Whitmore at 501.416.5559 if you have questions.

Westover Innovates January Presbyterian Village Social

Three carts full of individually wrapped treats made their way from Sam's to residents of Presbyterian Village, courtesy of Westover's Presbyterian Women and super shopper/delivery person Carol Enderlin. Normally, Westover's women host the January afternoon social at the Village, bringing sweet and savory treats and providing entertainment, but COVID changed everything.

Carol had the great idea to donate individually wrapped treats the staff could give to residents in lieu of the traditional gathering. The women donated funds and Valentine Oreos, miniature chocolate candy bars, Skinny Pop Popcorn, Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookies, Rice Krispies Valentine Treats, PopChips Variety Pack, Peanut and Almond Butter Biscuit Sandwiches, and Sparkling Ice Berry Fusion drinks to the residents. We aren't sure if WHPC was the first church to replace the monthly social with individually packaged treats, but Presbyterian Women were glad to lend a hand with an innovative pandemic solution.

Presbyterian Women Incarcerated Outreach

Presbyterian Women's outreach to the incarcerated programs keep going but are vastly different without in-person classes. Here is a quick update:

Women's Literacy at PCRDF (jail)

Even though class time was sporadic during December due to the holidays, the women finished reading *The Hunger Games* and wrote about personal experiences which mirrored themes of the book.

Two other topics they enjoyed writing about were body tattooing and advertising. The women most enjoyed presenting skits portraying the influence of advertising.

Edible treats at Christmas and Valentines were a welcomed bonus.



Poetic Justice (PJ)

The Poetic Justice Distance Learning Program received a green light to start on March 15 at McPherson Women's Prison. We will have 36 women in our first class and will match them with 36 "free world" writing partners for the eight-week program.

We are awaiting word on other sites to be added. If you or any women you know, want to participate in this outreach, non-contact ministry, please pass along Kathy Rateliff's phone/text number 501/944-4244 or email at aspasia@sbcglobal.net.

The pilot project with ten Arkansas volunteers has finished and everyone loved the distance learning program. It was such a hit that everyone signed on to continue the program and stay in touch with their writing partner. Here are some of the comments from Arkansas' first Poetic Justice program from volunteers:

Volunteer and each partner doing the same writing assignment: "Both of us opened up. There is a lot of value in being vulnerable for a person who is so very vulnerable to feeling worthless and guilty."

“I learned about the incarcerated women’s issues; I had NO idea.”

What I liked best “was reaching out and letting the ladies know they are loved and not forgotten.”

Some poetry/words from the incarcerated writers:

Ode to Myself by MA

You are very smart and strong.

God did not give you a spirit of fear.

You may be going through a storm but you will get through this.

Keep leaning on God, because He has never left you.

As we go through life, our life will change many times, but God never changes.

You have come a long way so there is no sense in going back, keep believing in yourself.

My life... BJ

...We have all made mistakes in our lives or we wouldn't be here and there is not one mistake that is worse than another. I believe this is the time that we have been given to search our souls and see what we need to change or overcome in our lives to make our own lives better...I pray each and every day that I am seeing what is right for me to do and I pray that others are doing the same. I want to be better going out of here than I was coming in here. The only way I feel this will happen is if I search my soul, make changes within me, and strive each day to make the world a little bit kinder through me.

City Center

Immanuel Baptist Church, opened City Center to help meet community needs including a clothing closet to help outfit formerly incarcerated individuals. They can visit on Wednesdays (the store reopens on 3/1). If you

have clothing items to donate I would encourage you to think about donating to City Center. Families from The CALL can also visit the store as can others in need on various days and times with free transportation provided.

“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!



Men's Literacy at PCRDF (jail)

The guys chose to read *The Sun Does Shine*, by Anthony Ray Hinton, an Oprah pick. Thanks to a Synod of the Sun grant, books were purchased and the class is enjoying reading the book (so much that most finished it in a week). We asked if there was anything in the first few chapters that they could identify with, and one man raised his hand. "You know the story where he tells about dressing up and going to a car dealer and test driving a

new Cutlass, and they never asked for his ID and he then “test drove it,” for two years?” “Yes,” we replied. “Well, I never went to confess like he did, but I went to a motorcycle place and test drove a motorcycle. I loved it and test drove it right up to the day I sold it.” Even our deputy had to laugh at this story.

Hinton’s book brought up another story for discussion. For 30 years, Hinton was on death row in Alabama for a crime he did not commit. One of our students talked about his two brothers already serving life sentences without the possibility of parole. He is now facing the same sentencing. They talked about a lifetime with no hope. It was very difficult to hear. It's hard to imagine facing it.

...
Ordinary

Shine for the stars,
Dance for the moon,
Stream Big.

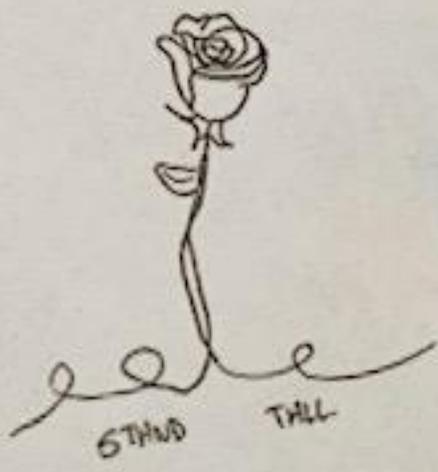
the
ESCAPE



I will go to college
I will Graduate.
I will Succeed.



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



Honoraria



In
Honor
Of

Honor Gifts January-February 2021

In honor of Deanine Rogers from PW Coordinating Team for PW Mission Fund

In honor of Kay Stephens from PW Coordinating Team for PW Mission Fund

In honor of Liz & Bill Branch from Candice Misenheimer



Memorials January-February 2021

Annette Greenland
Don Dutton

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg Fund
Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg Fund
