

# KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

A Christian Community Knowing, Loving & Serving Christ, to Make Him Known to All.

August 2016



## Dear Members and Friends,

I cannot recall a season in the life of our culture when I have been so sad and heartbroken. Racial tensions are on high alert; police officers continue to be shot and wounded each week; the situation in the Middle and Far East continues to deteriorate. Here at home, the national election cycle finds us with candidates who cannot stand one another and many voters who do not care for either of the presidential candidates. The world is going to heck in a handbasket. So many people see as important only the need to make more money and purchase more toys.

In many ways, I feel like that video series from Andy Stanley, "In the Meantime: What to Do When There is Nothing You Can Do."

Perhaps the Good Lord is teaching all of us a very profound lesson: lean on God's ways when all around us is sinking sand; trust and obey for there's no other way; as we continue to live our lives in the midst of so much animosity and societal ugliness, we need, as one body of Christ, to continue to pray and encourage one another.

"I don't know what the future holds but I know who holds the future." Whoever said that was a very wise person.

See you in church.

Fondly,

  
[mcondrey@cox.net](mailto:mcondrey@cox.net)



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**Summer Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School:** 8:30 a.m. (Adults)

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# THANK YOU KIRKWOOD

Congregational Care

Dear KirkWood,

As I write this I am sitting on a hammock at my family's lake house with a bottle of Riesling from a local winery and the neighbors' Bichon Frise keeping me company. Is this what retirement feels like, where do I go to get a masters in this?!

I have been awfully bad about responding to emails and texts the past few weeks (sorry Tina and Olivia), it's just been nice having time to disconnect and relax, refresh, and reflect.

Let me start by saying thank you for the wonderful goodbyes. Between the reception after church and the choir party I ate enough food to keep alive a hibernating bear. I was touched by your cards, the plaque, signed Dr. Seuss book, gifts, and warm wishes. It is so encouraging, also a bit daunting, knowing how many people are behind me as I begin a new, very challenging chapter in life.

In addition to the 'stuff' that you all gave me, thank you for the year of making music, developing friendships, and experiencing what a church should really be like.

In college I was first read this short poem by Michael Spencer Free titled *The Human Touch*, and it quickly became a personal adage.

*'Tis the human touch in this world that counts, the touch of your hand and mine,  
Which means far more to the fainting heart than shelter and bread and wine.  
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er, and bread lasts only a day.  
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice sing on in the soul always.*

To this day I still get choked up when I read the first three lines. This poem serves as my reminder in our often hectic world that it's about how we treat one another, with our actions and our words, that matters. That's really Jesus' message in a nutshell.

My time at KirkWood helped me realize that this notion is most important in the life of a church. Having grown up Catholic and received into the Episcopal Church, most of the pressing church matters were memorizing prayers, learning where to genuflect, and following the order of the liturgy. Before starting at KW, I was a member of a rather pretentious church in Williamsburg. I had been going every Sunday morning for many months and one Sunday, as I was leaving, the priest shook my hand and said "Thank you for visiting." I was appalled. How many times had I worshiped at that church yet to the man in the fancy dress I was still just a tourist.

Michael has many qualities, but perhaps his most redeeming is his ability to be personable, to shake your hand and crack a joke. Like Michael, one of KirkWood's best qualities, as I have often said, is the way that the community treats one another. Like the poem above states, it's not about shelter, or bread, or wine (unfortunately), nor is it about doctrine, whether you agree with Presbyterian Church USA or not, nor liturgy, or hymn choice, or whether you consider the contemporary service as more karaoke than church. At the end of the day all of that is pointless compared with the importance of being a welcoming community, preaching the gospel, and serving the greater community through mission work. And that's what you exemplify best, KirkWood, and that is one of the biggest lessons that I took from my time at 'the church with the pumpkin patch'. I hope you never take that for granted - there are many churches where that sense of community does not exist.

I moved my flight a few days earlier than planned and will be flying out August 5th, spending some time traveling through Europe. I registered for my classes and signed up for my language immersion course during the month of September. This is no longer just a crazy idea that I had.

I hope Jeannine survives VBS and I wish all of you well. I know that KirkWood will continue to be successful in its mission of glorifying God and helping to make Jesus known to all.

Much love and many thanks,

Drew Lusher

P.S. When you see Tina give her a hug and tell her it's from me.



## A Special THANK YOU

Dear Kirkwood,

We would like to give you all a big THANK YOU for the wonderful support given to us during Roger's rehabilitation from a devastating accidental fall. Praise the Lord for blessing us through our church family's prayers, cards, and calls. We appreciate y'all so much!

In His love,

Roger and Gloria Crone



# CONGREGATIONAL CARE HAPPENINGS

Congregational Care

## SARAH CIRCLE

Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!

KW's best kept secret. Sarah Circle nearly disappears in the summer because we don't meet at the church (we are out to lunch). But when the second Tuesday comes in September, we appear full force at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our intriguing new study will be "Who Is Jesus?" For "clues" call Wilma Mitchell (865-6020).

## KIRKWOOD HISTORY AND BUDDING FLOWERS

Hurrah! We now have a history team coming together to develop a KirkWood history . Connie Mixson, who has experience in doing church histories, and Mary Gross will be reviewing all the material we have saved over the years and composing our history to date. If you have memories or items that would help compose this history, please contact one of these ladies.

We now have an updated team of ladies preparing our bud vases each Sunday. These flowers are prepared using our large arrangement from the worship service and are carried by our visitor team to the sick and homebound. These ladies serve on a rotating basis following an established calendar so each person serves about once each month. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Bill Gilbert or Cathy Alexander.

## WE NEED YOU!!

Congregational Care needs you to offer prayers and compassionate attention for members and friends experiencing sickness, medical procedures, and loss of loved ones - we need to be in touch with these folks to express God's love. Please review the long list of Illnesses/Health Concerns in our bulletin each week. We become stronger as a fellowship when we care for each other.

## SUMMER PICNIC

Our annual picnic was a big success with an excellent selection of homemade food and a beautiful sunny day to enjoy food and fellowship. Big thanks to all the people who worked hard to setup the tents, bounce house, etc., and do all the cooking. This was another KirkWood great team effort!



# UPDATES

Congregational Care and Property and Facilities

## KIRKWOOD SILVER

Our trip to see “Oklahoma” was fantastic! We had great weather, great travel, great food, and the musical was awesome. The actor who played Judd Fry was our server for lunch and intermission snacks and beverages! He was just the opposite of the mean character he played!

Our “kick-off” for next year will happen on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> when we will have a light lunch and an interesting, entertaining program at the church. Watch for more details in the next Kronicle.



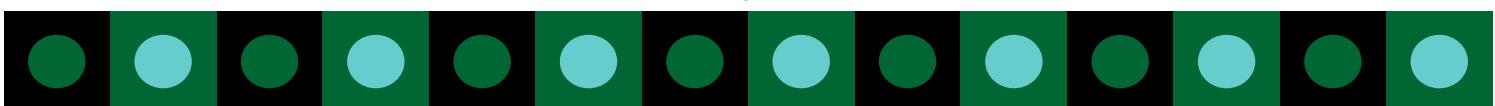
Our Silver group also enjoyed a tasty Greek lunch at the Greek Festival held in June. Wonderful food and fellowship and an opportunity to take home some of the delicious Greek dessert pastries.

## PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

P&F Committee News: We have confirmed that we will be resurfacing the church parking lot in August. We are still working on which week they will be there but we will let the church know as soon as the scheduled date is confirmed.

P&F would like to give a large thank you to Roger Crone for being the church custodian for the last two years. His dedication for keeping the church clean has been greatly appreciated. Roger has decided to retire again and move on to other adventures.

P&F would also like to welcome Tim Snell as the new custodian. Tim and his wife Mandy and their two children Sammy and Leah are members, so you may know them already.



# New Information on Sunday School

Christian Education

Beginning in September, Sunday School classes for all **CHILDREN** will start at 11 a.m. This allows the families, no matter what age their children are, an option to worship together. There will still be nursery at both services, and Glory time during the 9:30 service for children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger.

## FAQ'S FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH FALL PROGRAMS

Whether you are a veteran KirkWood attendee or visiting for the first time there are always questions for the new Sunday school year. Please contact Jeannine Scott (children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) or Ryan Wenner (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) or members of the Christian Education committee if your answer is not provided in the following samples.

**Q:** Where and when does my child go to Sunday School?

**A:** Sunday School classes are at 11 a.m.

Infant to age 2 in Room 3, Preschool in Nursery A/B,

Upstairs: K-5<sup>th</sup> grade in Room 11, grades 6-8<sup>th</sup> in Room 7, and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in Room 8

**Q:** How do I know if my child is ready for the preschool room?

**A:** Your child must be two years old when Sunday school starts. The parents and the teachers can observe young children to make sure that they are learning to work together as a group and follow basic instructions.

**Q:** How can my child best participate in worship?

**A:** Acolyting starts at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, at 6<sup>th</sup> grade children may join the worship team and choirs.

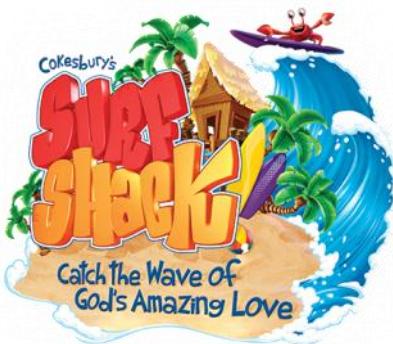
**Q:** Are there opportunities beyond Sunday morning?

**A:** Yes! In addition to movie nights, pumpkin patch activities, and Trunk or Treat – there are also Youth Group activities that start in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Look at the bulletin board across from the office for more information.

## WoW (the Way of the Word)

September starts a new year of WoW (the Way of the Word)– KirkWood's Sunday School program for kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade! It is a highly interactive way to teach children the eternal truths of our faith, found in the Bible. Students will study one Biblical “subject” each month, by rotating through different learning styles each Sunday. The repetition will help them remember, the rotation will help them find interest in a variety of details from each lesson.





The VBS surfers had an amazing week at Surf Shack as we experienced God's ways to create, help, love, calm, and send. We had a tsunami of support for our mission collections as we collected laundry supplies, school items, healthy snacks, and money to help the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. An ocean of thanks to all the volunteers that kept the sea of energy fed, educated, safe, and energized.



"Remember that the Lord is great and awesome!" Nehemiah 4:14b



## GIVING THROUGH BLOOD

Our next amazing Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, **August 25<sup>th</sup>** from 2-7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The fabulous cooks and bakers will be out to feed all donors as well. No menu as of this date, but I know Connie Barlow has some yummy ideas in mind. Please mark your calendars for our final blood drive of 2016: **November 10<sup>th</sup>**. Donors can schedule their appointments by going on line to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org); sponsor code KirkwoodPC. If you would like to save yourself some time on drive day, you can access the RAPIDPASS. RAPID PASS lets you do the prescreen process from your laptop or desk top computer and can save you as much as 15-20 minutes when you get to the drive. The Red Cross will send a link to your email the day before the drive. There will be someone in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 14 after the worship service to make appointments as well. If you have questions or would like to inquire as to how you can help at upcoming drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins, 757-869-2645 or [hudgepudge@aol.com](mailto:hudgepudge@aol.com). There is an urgent need for all types of blood during the summer months and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating this lifesaving need.



## UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Our "End of Summer" potluck luncheon will be held Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, after the 11 a.m. worship service – please plan to join us and bring some food to share – drinks and tableware will be provided.

Please review our bulletin each Sunday to learn of fellowship opportunities.

### REMINDER

We will return to 2 services starting September 4, 2016.

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service



## AUGUST

7<sup>th</sup> – Luke 12:32-40

14<sup>th</sup> – Luke 12:49-56

21<sup>st</sup> – Stephen Ministry

28<sup>th</sup> – Charlie Reece