

KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

A Christian Community Growing Together, Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ, September 2020
to make Him known to all.

Q. and A. with Pastor Chris Shearer



KirkWood family,

In the spirit of helping you get to know me better, this month let's do a little Q and A...

Aside from your own spiritual practices, what refreshes or restores you? Top of the list – time with my nurturing, exceedingly funny family. A good conversation, my best friends, music of all kinds, learning something new, getting out into nature, writing, taking the time to cook dinner (a hobby discovered in midlife...ethnic and global foods are my faves...on the other hand, baking is still a befuddling mystery to me.)

Where have you lived previously? I was born in southern California, near Palm Springs in the high desert; I spent my first 18 years on my family's large commercial trout farm...lots of hiking, free-climbing...as someone later told me, "You can take the man out of the desert, but you can never take the desert out of the man." Heather and I met in graduate school, in Dallas, TX (she's native Texan from Houston...yes, definitely making us a cross-cultural marriage!) I've pastored churches in Tucson, AZ, Los Alamos, NM – near Santa Fe, where both of my kids were born, Grand Rapids, MI, and Culpeper, VA.

Who are your heroes (other than Jesus, of course)? I have two within my own family –

my dad, still going strong at 80, and my maternal grandmother, Betty, a special education teacher in San Diego, my first model of gracious, open-minded Christian faith. After losing my faith in my latter 20s, I went about trying to find what I labeled "unimpeachable Christian voices," those who every tribe within



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Worship: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (contact church office for link)



Christianity seemed to value and extol. These became the figures who retaught me the faith, so in a way they are my heroes too. They included Thomas Merton, C. S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Ignatius of Loyola, among others.

So how poorly do you see? I threw this one in because you may not know many other visually-handicapped people. Rule of thumb to know about me – my acuity drops off after about six feet...beyond that distance, I see blurs, shapes, and colors, nothing precise. So if you wave at me from a distance, I'll wave back (assuming I see you waving at all), but probably won't know who you are. One last helpful pointer – my left eye is my good, or more accurately less bad, eye...so when we're talking, lock in on that one...my right eye is an anarchist, it does its own thing most of the time.

Name a dream vacation destination. The Holy Land – have been once, would love to go again. The American Southwest. Australia/New Zealand, Hawaii, Alaska, Iceland, Morocco, I could keep going...

Would you rather ride a bike, ride a horse, or drive a car? Drive a car – fast.

What would you sing at karaoke night? I wouldn't – because I'd clear the room. Imagine a tone-deaf Johnny Cash. I leave the singing to Heather, who has about 90% of the talent in our marriage.

Which would you rather do: wash dishes, mow the lawn, clean the bathroom, or vacuum the house? I have two teenagers.

Do you collect anything? Books – have you seen my office? CDs – I'd love to get into vinyl at some point. Music memorabilia – it's the chief décor in my home office. Heather and I collect Southwestern pottery, crosses, and suns too.

Have you ever had a nickname? What is it? My mom called me "Kisses" for years; can't believe I just admitted that in print. Everyone calls me Chris; I'm only Christian when I'm in trouble. Previous churches have called me PC (short for Pastor Chris) and Doc.



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September Dates

- Sept 7 - Labor Day
- Sept 11 - Patriot Day
- Sept 23 - National Grandparents Day
- Sept 15-Oct 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month
- Sept 22 - First day of fall

AN UPDATE ON WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship

In case you haven't noticed, worship is back in full swing, or at least a modified swing. We have been having live, in-person worship for several weeks now, simultaneously streaming the service on YouTube. We have had dozens of people attending service in person, while at the same time, we have had an estimated average of 190 viewers of the online services each week. Many of you have been sharing the service videos with your friends and family, allowing KirkWood to reach beyond the four walls of our sanctuary with the Sunday messages.

We also continue to make adjustments to the service to make it engaging, worshipful, and safe. Pastor Chris has added elements to the service, such as prayer in unison and greetings through body movement. We recently had a flute back into the service, and we continue to explore how to add ways to help us worship and praise God.

But we do need your help. First, for those of you who watch the service online, please subscribe to our YouTube channel. We are over half way to 100, at which point we can have a





custom web address, so it is easier to find. Second, as we try to keep the service engaging without congregational singing, we are constantly looking for new ideas. Drop a note to the worship committee with any ideas you may have, and we will definitely consider them. Third, we need volunteers. As in-person attendance is necessarily reduced, the number of people available to help is decreased as well, while we have some needs that have increased. We increased our ushers in each service from four to six, and some people have been helping almost every Sunday. We also need some backups for the AV (audio visual) work, as it takes two people (one for the video stream and one for the sound.) Although the AV work looks complex, the biggest thing is being comfortable with computers and the willingness to pay attention in the service - everything else can be taught.

Most importantly, we thank God for the continued ability to worship Him, the means to do so, and the talent, technology, and resources that has allowed us to do so with an even bigger reach. We thank you for your prayers and patience you have given us this far and ask that you continue to pray for ongoing successful worship.

MEALS FOR VETS

Mission

We will be starting our Vet Meal Mission on Sept. 10th by providing meals for two veteran homes (five men in each home) every Monday and Thursday. These homes support veterans transitioning from homelessness. Please consider assisting in this mission by fixing a casserole for five men. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a5a62ea0f58-meals>, or call Gloria or Zora and they can sign you up, answer your questions, and arrange for pickup.

Gloria Griffin (757) 223-4104 or (757) 719-0995

Zora Parker (757) 833-6406 or (757) 869-3784



BLOOD DRIVE

Congregational Care

We held a Red Cross blood drive at the church on August 20th in the fellowship hall. It was nice to see so many of our regular donors back out to support the drive. Our goal was 37 units, and we collected 37 units! We had 35 donors signed-in, only a couple of deferrals, but were lucky to have three donors who could give two units, which made up for the ones who could not. Thanks to our KirkWood volunteers for coming out to help with registration and oversee the canteen. We were unable to offer food at this drive, but hopefully in November, we will be back to our “regular” routine. **The final drive for this year is November 19, 2020.** You can go to www.redcrossblood.org now, Sponsor Code: “KirkwoodPC” to schedule your appointment for the November drive. Walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments are highly recommended during this time of COVID.



HELP WANTED: If you are willing to help out serving food (when we are able to resume this) or in the registration process DURING the drive, please let either Elizabeth Nelson or Cathy Hudgins know. We are looking for a few more volunteers to be available to be called to work.



KIRKWOOD SILVER

Congregational Care

As of this writing and because of the ongoing pandemic, KirkWood Silver does not have any specific plans to get together although we are all very eager for that to be able to happen! As an “extra-large” small group at KirkWood, we will hopefully have an opportunity soon to participate in our new pastor’s Listening Tour, in whatever form that needs to be! In the meantime, I will attempt to give a written introduction to KWS for Pastor Chris’ benefit and for any new KW ‘seniors’ who haven’t had the opportunity to try out this wonderful, meaningful, and fun group. Our regular gatherings are on the third Thursday of each month.

Twelve years ago, KirkWood Silver began monthly gatherings of members and friends who have achieved seniorhood! We don’t ask your age, and you don’t even have to have silver hair to join in the fellowship! We enjoy quite a variety of get togethers from offsite visits to museums, or other places of interest or entertainment, to onsite luncheons with short programs of inspiration, especially at Christmas and Lent/Easter, or helpful, informational programs such as Senior Safety or important legal papers. Sometimes we enjoy a slide show or talk by members who are willing to share their travels, talents, and abilities.

The KWS planning team meets only several times a year and welcomes your ideas for new kinds of gatherings or topics. Members are Carolyn and Bill Gilbert, Gloria and Steve Griffin, Anne Effler, Noreen Lovdahl, Karenanne Graves, Elizabeth Nelson, and Jim and Wanda Birch.





AN UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Christian Education

KIRKWOOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL
Starting September 13th
VIRTUAL or IN-PERSON

Sundays, at 9:30am, in room 2, ages 3 years—
 5th grade will be using the VBS Knights of North Castle lessons to join the Quest for the Knight's Armor.

Packets will be available for those wishing to learn at home.

Worship will be streamed in Nursery A/B for families with younger siblings

All decisions support safety regulations in place while still being realistic about the children’s abilities. Children are spaced approximately six feet apart, designated with a hula hoop. Each family has their own box of supplies, and siblings might sit together at a table (see attached photo.) We have room for approximately 14 children, depending on number and size of sibling groups. Masks are required for volunteers (and optional for children.) Additionally, hand sanitizer must be used before entering the room. Weather allowing, the windows will be opened to improve ventilation.

The class will be the entire length of the service. Parents will drop the children off on their way to worship. Details are being worked out to have a TV stream the worship in Nursery A/B to give parents a place to supervise younger siblings. The families that are not ready to attend in person may pick up a packet to explore at home.



Additional worship support to families will be offered through emails. Please contact the office to add your contact information to the children’s bulletin correspondence.

Expansion to add a Glory Time during worship might be best addressed when more mask leniency is available in areas of worship. Adding more classes to split the age groups will be considered when current space is an issue or schools open to in-person learning.