

KirkWood Kronicle

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

September 2021

A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



As we leave our summer book reading behind and seek to live the “BELLS” together, here are a few insightful nuggets from a recent keynote address by Alan Hirsch, frequent collaborator with Michael Frost (author of “Surprise the World!”) and another leader within the global missional church:

1. “While the church is undergoing fundamental change in society, as numbers decline and the church seeks to redefine itself, it is largely still tied to its institutional memory. It won’t be until the church is completely sidelined, like it has become in Britain, that church people will be able to release the shackles that they’ve made for themselves and return to being a full movement of God’s people. Very few times in history do we release the people of God to be the people of God.”

2. “Genuine Christian movements are rare and short lived in church history but have impact that lasts for centuries.” Hirsch mentions one example from pre-Civil War America: between 1800-1850, a new form of Christianity from England, John Wesley’s Methodism, swept across the land so rapidly that by 1850 a full third of all Americans were Methodists. But beginning around 1850 Methodist leaders began to put more and more of their energy — and their

people’s energy — into institutionalizing this rapid growth. And while structure, systems, and bureaucracy are in some ways both inevitable and necessary, it’s also true that the American Methodist Church has never experienced the same growth since, and has been in decline for over a century.



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

1209 Hampton Highway
Yorktown, VA 23693
Phone: 757-766-0343 Fax: 757-766-0962
Email: office@kirkwoodpcusa.org
Website: <http://www.kirkwoodpcusa.org/>

Worship: Sundays, 9:30 a.m., in person and broadcast live via KirkWood’s home page and our YouTube channel. On-demand replays are available on YouTube.

Sunday School: KirkWood offers fresh resources for individual, family, and group nurturing. Please visit our website for details.



3. “You know your congregation or group is living the mission of God when you allow mission to determine the form and function of your church. We don’t squeeze mission and outreach into the preexisting structure of our churches, we allow mission to dictate our structure—when we meet, how we meet, what our groups do, what defines success for us, what we value most, and so on.”

4. “Mission is not something the church does, nor is it the aim of only one committee or team within a church. It is something that God is, it is theology...God is a missionary God. The church doesn’t do, or create, mission. Mission creates the church.”

5. Hirsch describes the basic biblical building blocks of Christian “mission” this way: a) God is a sending God, b) God sent Jesus via incarnation to be His real presence in the world, so c) Jesus now sends us into the world too, to be, say, and do what He did (John 20.21b). Thus, Hirsch concludes, “As Christians, we’re not called to just reach out and help someone a little bit. We’re called to pitch a tent in their neighborhood (see John 1.14), to get dirty with them, to know them, to speak their language, to live lives with them. This is what it means to be missional.”

Again Jesus said,
“Peace be with you!
As the Father has
sent me, I am
sending you.”

John 20:21b

Warmly, Chris

In This Issue

Pastor’s Letter	pg. 1-2
Dates	pg. 2
Administration	pg. 3
Christian Ed	pg. 4
Mission	pg. 5
Outreach	pg. 6
Congregational Care	pgs. 7-10
Stewardship	pg. 9

Special Dates/Upcoming Events

- September 6—Labor Day (office closed)
- September 11—Patriot Day
- September 12
Church Picnic
National Grandparents’ Day
- September 15-October 15
Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 22—First day of autumn
- September 25—Pumpkin Patch Setup

PRESERVING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

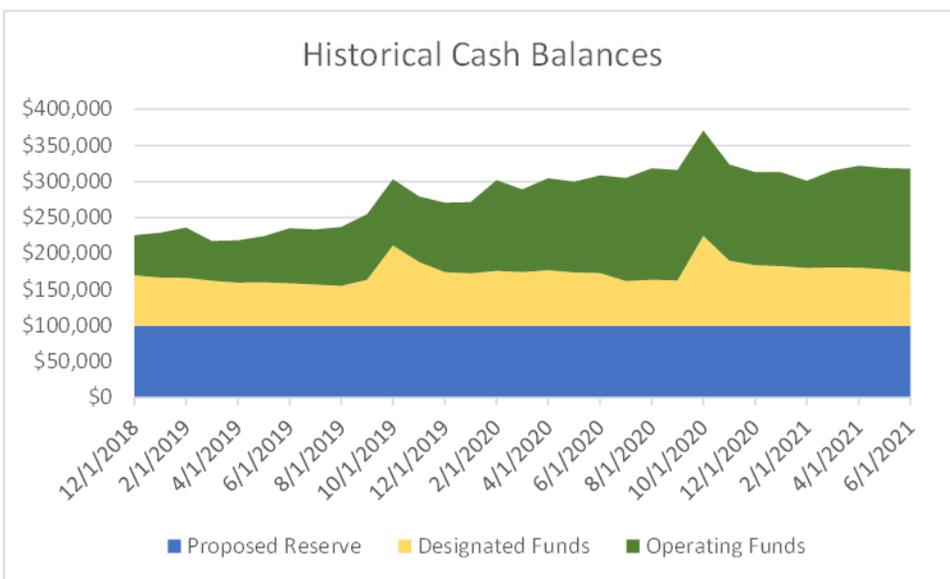
Administration

Our church has been blessed in many ways—an active congregation sharing Christ’s teachings and engaging with others in our community. Over the past few years KirkWood has been blessed financially also. Session has been able to support church educational, social, and music programs; maintain and update our facility, including technology upgrades during the pandemic; and support many external and internal mission-related programs and activities.

In order to remain on strong financial footing going forward and protect the church’s monetary assets from the impact of inflation, Session decided to transfer a portion of the General Operating Fund to a Reserve Fund.

To research and implement this decision, a subcommittee of the Administration Committee was authorized by Session. The **Funds Management Subcommittee** currently includes Tammie Organski (Chair of the Administration Committee), Murray Ritter (Chair of the Planning & Leadership Development Committee), Albertina Dowe (KirkWood Treasurer), Mike Fore and Cindy Williamson.

The Reserve Fund will be used to purchase bank and government securities and broad stock and bond market index funds. All purchases will be evaluated using a faith-based approach, which views financial resources as part of a faithful life and the stewardship of God’s resources as entrusted to the church. Again, this is being done to protect the church’s monetary assets from the impact of inflation.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Christian Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sign ups will begin soon to help the future of God's children. Start prayerfully considering how you can contribute to their faith growth. A need for a nursery volunteer as well as Sunday School teachers will be advertised. Jeannine Scott is happy to

answer questions or help you sign up on a date or rotation that works best for your schedule.

[Signup Genius](#) is also recommended for those who like an email reminder. The more volunteers we have, the more we can serve the children and the lighter the individual load.

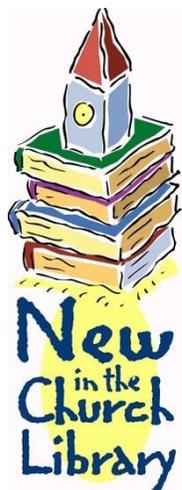


For 3 years old through 5th grade, we are enjoying a taste of VBS on Sunday mornings. Become explorers with us as we *Discover on Adventure Island* and discover how God's light shines on us. Learn and practice how you can reflect that light each day. The series concludes on September 12.

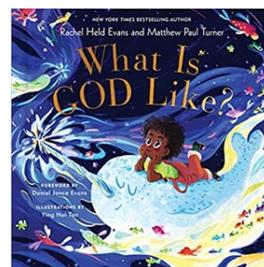
Beginning September 19, the "Follow Me" curriculum will be available in every age group. On the agenda:



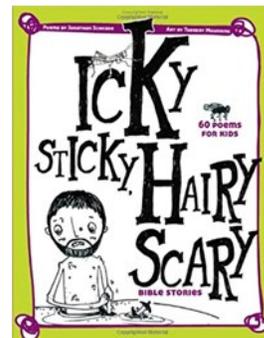
- Follow Jesus • Welcome All • Confess • Hope
- Live in Community • Practice Joy • Renounce Evil • Make Peace



What Is GOD Like? encourages young hearts to "think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel brave, and what makes you feel loved. That's what God is like."



All Bible stories show that God loves us and is willing to sink down in the disgusting muck with us to lift us up and set us free. If you are the kid that says, "Ew, gross!" and then smiles, check out *Icky Sticky Hairy Scary's* 60 rhyming poems based on God's own Word.



URGENT NEED — MEALS FOR VETS

Mission



KirkWood provides meals for two veterans' homes (five men in each home) every Monday and Thursday. These homes support vets transitioning from homelessness. We need your help.

Please consider assisting in this mission by fixing a casserole for five men. You can sign up in the Narthex, through [Signup Genius](#), or call Gloria at 757-223-4104/757-719-0995 or Zora at 757-833-6406/757-869-3784. They will sign you up, answer questions, and arrange for pickup.

PARKING LOT FOOD DRIVES PAUSED

Mission

The Mission Committee wants to thank the KirkWood congregation for their participation and generous support of our Parking Lot Food Drives during 2020 and 2021. As you remember, we began the Parking Lot Drives when we had to suspend in-person worship. This presented a challenge for our first Sunday monthly food collection. The results have been amazing! KirkWood collected 695 bags of food and \$16,157 in donations in 2020/2021. We were able to support both the Yorktown Food Pantry (St Luke's) and the Peninsula Food Bank during the height of the COVID pandemic.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

Matthew 25:35 (NIV)

Now that we are worshipping in person on Sundays, we will return to the first Sunday monthly food collections using the bins in the Narthex. Please continue to support this Food Ministry. There are many in our area still struggling with employment and economic difficulties. The Mission Committee will continue to monitor food challenges in our area and may schedule a Parking Lot Food collection event in the future.

Again, thanks for all the support.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Outreach

The Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Thursday, August 19. We had some issues early in the drive that delayed our start and put us behind on appointment times. A HUGE thank you goes out to the donors for their patience and grace, as the staff did their best to move them through.



COVID protocols were back in place during the event. We had 32 presenting donors and were able to collect 31 pints of blood. We had one donor who gave "Power Red", which is two units of blood. We had one deferral, which is donors unable to give for reasons such as low iron or blood pressures above an acceptable level, and one donor unable to finish in the required time.

Thank you to all those who come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully. We were still unable to serve a meal, but are hoping to resume that ministry later in 2021.

Our final 2021 drive will be held on Thursday, November 18. Please mark your calendars. If you have questions or would like to know how you can help during future drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Outreach



If you are going through the cancer battle and would be interested in participating in a group to talk about your journey with others going through the same battle, KirkWood would like to help. If there is interest in this group, we hope to start sometime in the Fall.

Please contact Steve Hudgins or the church office if this is something that you or someone you know could benefit from.

CC EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Congregational Care



KirkWood Picnic Day

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 AFTER WORSHIP
ON THE FRONT LAWN

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and drinks are provided.
Please bring a side or dessert to share.



Christian Education will provide activities to
encourage and inspire all ages to learn more about
our fall class options on the theme "Follow Jesus".

Annual Picnic

Our annual picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, September 12, after our combined worship service.

As always, we'll have tents and tables set up, entertainment for the kids, and hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to share and be prepared for a good time!

Military Appreciation Pot-Luck Dinner

In recognition of Veterans' Day, on Sunday, November 7 at 6 p.m., KirkWood will honor its own veterans who have served or are still serving in our nation's military services. Please come and bring a dish to share.

Meals Support

As always, if you or a loved one needs temporary help with meals for any reason, please let the church office know. The Congregational Care committee is here to assist you.

Lew Goodman is the point of contact for these items/events.



ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Congregational Care

KirkWood Dining Partners

In our recent reading of *Surprise the World*, author Michael Frost shared that one of the habits of missional people is eating with others. We also know that the early church is described in the Book of Acts 2:42-47 as devoted to the apostles' teachings and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

KirkWood Dining Partners is about spending an evening together talking, laughing, and enjoying a shared experience and meal with your church family. Please consider joining us for any, or all, of the upcoming Kirkwood Dining Partners activities and reach out to others to join us. And feel free to drop either Arba or Cindy Williamson a note with any suggestions.

There will be sign-up sheets for the eating-out events in the Narthex and reminders in the bulletin.

If you have any questions, please contact Arba (awillia114@aol.com) or Cindy (cwillic114@gmail.com), or ask anyone who participated before — we've had a lot of fun and meaningful conversations.

Locations (below) are tentative, so please watch the bulletin and weekly church emails for final plans or changes to our schedule. Also, please recognize that all the planning in the world doesn't stop COVID 19 restrictions, which we will abide by.

2021 Dates

September 11

Thai Erawan, Yorktown, 6 p.m.

October 9

Yanni's Taverna, Newport News, 6 p.m.

November 13

Smoke, Warwick Blvd., Newport News, 6 p.m.

December 12

Brunch, TBD, 12:30 p.m.

2022 Dates

January 15

Old City BBQ, Williamsburg, 6 p.m.

February 19

Miyaki Grill, Kiln Creek, 6 p.m.

March 19

Dock of the Bay, Carrollton, 6 p.m.

April 9

TBD (taking suggestions), 6 p.m.

May 14

Pot luck picnic, 6 p.m.

KirkWood Silver Fall Kick-off!

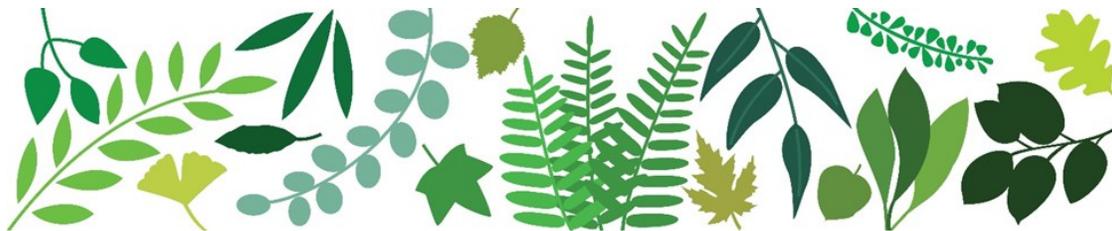
It's kick-off time for KirkWood Silver! Thursday, September 16 is the date; 11:30 a.m. is the time!

We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall for a sandwich luncheon and a few words of encouragement from our pastor, Chris Shearer. If you haven't met Chris in person yet, this will be a great opportunity for you to do that!

An assortment of sandwiches from Italian Delights will include turkey and cheese, roast beef and cheese, ham and cheese, and Italian. The cost per person will be \$6, payable at the luncheon. Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing up in the narthex from August 29-September 12, or by calling or emailing Jim or Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651, or wandjbirch@verizon.net. Invite someone new to KirkWood Silver to join us!

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Stewardship



KirkWood GROWERS: God's Resource Organizers Working for Environmentally Responsible Sustainability

Do you feel a pull to take action and set an example to encourage our church and community toward responsible environmental stewardship? How does that look for you?

You might begin with prayer and small steps. Can you bring reusable plates / utensils to the church picnic instead of using the provided disposable ones?

The church took a first step by reinstating the blue recycling bins, but we have ideas to do so much more. Some ideas stirring about include garden shares, beehives, bird houses, energy management, woodland picnic area, and more.

To help contribute to the idea phase or take a more active role and put an idea in motion, contact Charlie Reece.

A PUMPKIN PALOOZA COMING!

Outreach

Hello KirkWood! In lieu of hosting The Enchanted Forest this year, we're going to have a **Pumpkin Palooza** during the Pumpkin Patch . The date is Saturday, October 23 during the day. The idea is to have a fall festival-like atmosphere—bounce house, food truck, games, etc.



The Outreach Committee is looking for folks who'd like to be on the Pumpkin Palooza Committee. Pumpkin Patch is just around the corner, so we'd like to get things in order and publicity started.

Let me (Toni Fisher) know by phone, text, or email if you're interested. My info is in the directory, or you can call the office and information will be forwarded to me.

More Outreach Opportunities



Are you interested in reaching out to the community, or do you have ideas of how KirkWood can reach out to the community?

THEN WE NEED YOU.

We'd love to have you on our Outreach Committee. We meet once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at the church. Our next meeting will be September 7. Contact Toni Fisher for more information.

Happy Fall!

Toni Fisher, Outreach Chair



And now, Lord ... grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all

BOLDNESS

Acts 4:29, ESV