



**Vol. LIII
No. 17
August 19, 2015**

Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
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Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Emily Bartlett

SERVICES:

SUNDAYS:

8:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tue, Wed
9 a.m.—11 a.m. Fri.

Iglesia la Gloria de Dios

Worship Saturday & Sunday at
5:00PM

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Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone. We reserve the right to reject submissions deemed incompatible with the mission of this church.

Merriam Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

Dear Friends,

With the coming of August, school starts up again. For the first time in 13 years, I did not have to spend my early August at the store buying back-to-school items: new outfits, pencils and notebooks and backpacks and such. It is a weird feeling. But just because my experience has changed, there are still thousands of children in our community who ARE starting back to school; full of anticipation and anxiety over what kind of a year it will be. There are thousands of teachers and administrators and staff starting back, wondering what this new school year will bring. There are thousands of parents, some taking their child to their very first day of school, some taking them to the first day of their last year of school, all hoping and praying for a safe day, week, year for their children.

Regardless of whether you have a child starting school this fall, or not; as the Body of Christ, we must be in prayer for the students, teachers, and parents of our community, our city, our nation, and our world. Pray with me today that God will be in every school, walking daily with students who are hungry for knowledge, encouraging students for whom school is a struggle, and keeping all students safe throughout their days, weeks, months, and this whole school year. Pray with me today to bless all teachers, administrators, and staff at schools; may their hearts be full of love for what they are doing and may they be emboldened with courage and insight for all of their students. And pray with me for all parents, and foster parents, and grandparents who must fill in as parents, and all others caring for children and making sure they get to school everyday; give them guidance and wisdom to help their students navigate a new year of learning and experi-

ence, and give them love and peace to support and guide their student. It is the start of a long year, and much will happen between now and next May. May God be present throughout this school year, and may God's blessings abound.

In Christ,
Mark



Pledges

As we fully enter into the last third of the calendar year, please be mindful of your pledges and giving. While our giving may ebb and flow in the church; our ministries, commitments, and expenses are ever constant. It is only through your continued, committed pledges and offerings that we can be the church we are called to be. Thank you!

"THE BREAD OF LIFE"

I have a question for you today. Can you define for me, or better still, can you answer this question? --- "What is the Church?" What comes into your mind when you hear the word, "Church"? Do you see it as a building? A denomination? A particular congregation? Or, is it only a social club? Some of these definitions may have a place, but in the Bible the word "Church" has 2 basic meanings. First, it means a local group of Christians, or all Christians in a particular city or area. In Acts 8: 1 & following, we read about a great persecution in the Church in Jerusalem, or the Church at Antioch (Acts 13:1) or the Church of God in Corinth, (1 Cor. 1: 2). Nowhere in the New Testament does the word, "Church" refer to a church building. I know this because there were none in the first century, for Christians mostly met in homes.

Second, the word, "Church" in the Bible refers to the Company of all believers (all believers; WHO are Spiritually united by their Spiritual relationship with Christ. So, the Church isn't just a local congregation. It includes all believers (Christians) everywhere --- even those who have died & are now in Heaven (with a capital "H"). True Christians, approaching death, are not only looking forward to being with Christ; but also to being reunited with friends & family who had already entered Heaven! IF YOU BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST YOU ARE PART OF THIS GREAT INVISIBLE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS ACROSS THE AGES. For the Good Book teaches that Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, of which He is Savior" (Ephesians 5: 2)

Vance Havner once wrote concerning the struggles of today's modern church (small c): "The Church (today) is so sub-normal that if it ever got back to the N.T. normal, it would seem to people to be abnormal ." So why bother going to church in these days & times? One of the most important things for all of us to remember is this: "The church is not a haven of Saints, but a HOSPITAL FOR SINNERS". How many of us are aware of the truth that the greatest hindrances to the evangelization of the world are those within the Church? True followers of Jesus Christ go to church to worship God, for God alone is worthy of our praise. And we honor Him when we worship together. God calls for total surrender for His Church. He desires quality Christians who are continually growing in Grace & YES growing in membership! Why? Because growth is The WILL OF GOD! As the Bible teaches, "The fields are ripe for harvest, & God wants them reaped, but not raped."

In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to "enter His gates with thanksgiving & His courts with praise; give thanks to Him & praise His Name" (Ps. 100: -4). We've been taught since childhood that the Bible (God's Word)

tells us to come together & sing "psalms, hymns & Spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). But the most important thing to remember is that "The true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit & in Truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks" (JN. 4: 23). It is very important to note that God SEEKS those who TRULY WORSHIP HIM!

Again, why should we come together as the Church? We come together to "hear God's Word." To hear God's Word is to do it, to obey God's commands. We come together, not only to hear God's Word, but to encourage one another daily. Finally, it is the Church's task to come together so that we can reach out to others with Love of Jesus Christ. The greatest enemy to God is the Church's empty pew, & our best friend is Jesus Christ, the Name that is above all other names. I hope to see you in God's House, come Sunday.

Love Ya,
Rex

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Emily and Joe - Yeh-Myers Studio! During July 30-August 2nd, the Mid-America Music Festival held its Annual Event this year in St. Louis. There were 10 Piano competition groups, and Emily and Joe had 8 First Place winners, 2 Second Place winners, and 1 Third Place winner. Their Theory team also won First Place in Theory competition. One of Joe's composition students also won the Outstanding Young Performer Award.

These achievements are something to be very proud of, and the church is very fortunate to have Emily and Joe in our midst.

-Worship Committee

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Year to Date Expenditures: \$94,410.29

Year to Date Sunday Worship Offering:
\$93,415.11

REPORT FROM CWF

We wanted to tell you about a project CWF has been involved with since June 3, 2014. KIVA – ‘a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, KIVA lets individuals lend as little as \$ 25.00 to help create opportunity around the world.’ We invested \$100.00 and here is a report on that \$ 100.00

25.00	Rosa Judith*	
	Colombia – Tailoring Business	paid back 14.95
25.00	Nusrat	
	Pakistan – Manufacturing	paid back complete 6/11/2015
25.00	Flordeliza	
	Philippines – Fishing	paid back complete 12/17/2014
25.00	Lucila Santos	
	El Salvador – Services **	paid back complete 7/26/2015

Above was the original 100.00. Since then we have reinvested with the following:

25.00	Maria Ann Gloria	
	El Salvador – Merchant	paid back 4.47
25.00	Wilmer Bayardo	
	Ecuador – Livestock	paid back 11.76
25.00	Alycia	
	El Salvador – Agricultural	just made 8/4/15
25.00	Haneen	
	Jordan – Higher Education	just made 8/4/15

**this is the only loan that is delinquent but she still pays a few cents each month.*

*** Services – hopper for a mill to grind grain*

As to how the individuals are selected, there are pages upon pages of people needing money, and I just read their story and select people. We get a bi-monthly report on our investment.

Jackie Watts, President
CWF

JOGGERS UPDATE

On Sunday, August 9th, Due to the Lack of Sunshine and the Very Warm and Humid Weather, the Potluck Picnic Was Held Inside, With 22 Present, and Collected \$45. It Was Great Having All of You Join Us and the Food Was Great. We Will Try the "Disciple Place" Again Later in the Year.

My Mother and Aunt Mary Grew Up in Glenwood, Missouri. This Was the Weekend for Their Yearly Town Reunion. So Bob and I Were the Designated Drivers to Get Them to the Festivities. It Turned Out to Be a Fairly Pleasant Weather Weekend. I Also Enjoyed Seeing my Niece and Nephews and Their Families.

Carol Vann Took Over the JOGger's Duties and Nine Regulars Went to Fazoli's and Collected \$32. It Was Great Having Opal Back.

This Sunday, the 23rd, We Will Be Going to Big Bam's. Hope You Can Join Us.

Hope You Have a Great Week
Betty and Bob Crooks



CWF DINNER

On September 3, CWF will have a taco dinner at 6 p.m. Following the dinner, Betty Crooks will have a craft workshop. It will be a fun-filled evening. The cost will be \$6.00 per person, which will include dinner and the craft program. Please sign up by the 28th of August if you are coming. You can pay your \$6.00 at the door on the night of September 3rd.

BLOOD DRIVE

We will have our fall Blood Drive September 14th, 3:00-7:00, here at the church. If you are able to donate blood, please let me know and I will get your appointment made. We need at least 20 Units. Each Unit could save two lives.

Thanks so much for your future and past donations!

Pat Reed
Blood Drive Chairman

DONATIONS NEEDED

We are again providing food for families without adequate food. Items needed are listed below:

juice boxes
granola bars
canned fruit
canned vegetables
peanut butter
soups

Please place items on shelves in Campbell Hall.

-Outreach Committee
Carole Prentice



Dear Merriam CC,

Thank you very much for your contribution to Tall Oaks Conference Center. Your faithful support is allowing us to present our unique ministry and facilities to over 8000 people each year. Your generous gifts touch and enrich the lives of these thousands of people who are served by Tall Oaks each year!

Thank you,
Kenny Funk
Executive director.

Thank you to Dixie Wheaton, who takes the time to decorate the small table in our entryway every month/season. I always look forward to seeing what she will come up with next. It truly brightens our entryway, and gives guests a glimpse of who we are. Thank you Dixie, for your wonderful decorations and themes.

Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: David Zickwolf, Joyce Luke, Rex Heavin, Marjorie Willard, Cara Lee Dickerson, Opal Seals, Jeanne Roebuck, Fred Lockard, Heather Waite.

Requests for Family and Friends: Delores Stockwell, friend of Susie Arnold; Joyce Campbell's son, David; Geoff Curtis; Jim & Lucy Walker's grandson Caden; Rex & Irene's granddaughter, Lori; Donna McEndree's niece, Nicki; Amy DeCoursey's stepsister, Carly; Evelyn VonKempske from Shawnee Community Services.

Those in Grief: The Bradley Family on the passing of Bill; the family of Susan Winter, Carol Vann's friend, on her passing; Leroy Wisner on the passing of his brother, Melvin

Praises: David and Katie Schwenk have a new niece, Lucy May; Dorothy & Lee Kroh's caretaker, Sam, is getting his US citizenship this week.

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Names added to the prayer list will remain on the prayer list for one month. Let the office know if a prayer request needs to stay on the list for longer or shorter than one month.



Calendar

Sunday - August 23
8:30 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
12:30 JOGgers
Monday - August 24
7:00 Boy Scouts
Wednesday - August 26
7:00 Bible Study
Sunday - August 30
8:30 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
12:30 JOGgers
Monday - August 31
2:00 Newsletter Deadline
7:00 Boy Scouts
Tuesday - Sep 1
7:00 Committee Meetings
Wednesday - Sep 2
7:00 Bible Study
Thursday - Sep 3
9:30 CWF
6:00 CWF Taco Dinner

MEALS ON WHEELS

August 25: Joan Tarwater & Susan Neill
September 1: Walt & Betty Bohn

Watch for the next
newsletter
the week of Sep 2, 2015

