



**Vol. LIII
No. 16
August 5, 2015**

Minister
Rev. Mark Willis
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markswillis@gmail.com

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

Our Regional Board met on Monday evening at Overland Park Christian Church to discuss, debate and decide on a candidate for our Regional Minister position. A huge thank you to Allen and Jackie Watts for attending on behalf of Merriam Christian Church (I was slated to attend but was unable to make it).

Our Regional Search Committee, a diverse cross section of clergy and lay people from several regional churches, have spent the last 9 months advertising the position across a wide selection of Disciples groups and areas, evaluating the 21 candidates who applied from 14 different states, obtaining outside consultation and evaluation of candidates, and conducting interviews with the top prospects.

After this long, heavily involved process, the Search Committee recommended a candidate to the Regional Executive Committee, who reviewed and discussed the candidate, and then voted unanimously to proceed to the board for a vote.

At our Regional Board meeting, our Board voted on and approved the hiring of Rev. Bill Rose-Heim, the Northwest Area Minister for the Mid-America Region, as our next Regional Minister. As our Region takes this important step forward, please be in prayer for Rev. Rose-Heim, for our region, and for our regional churches. Pray that God opens our eyes and hearts to God's mission in the Greater Kansas City region and pray we are willing, able, and inspired to follow it.

In Christ,
Mark

CWF SERVICE NOTES

School supply specials are appearing in stores now. We are collecting for Merriam Park Grade School and for a regional service project. We need the following items:

Wide-ruled spiral notebooks

Pencils

Crayons

Scissors

Rulers

Pink erasers

Pencil top erasers

Glue sticks

Boxes of tissues

Colored pencils

Hand sanitizer

Antibacterial wipes

Wide-ruled loose-leaf paper

Black, low-odor dry erase markers

They can be placed on the shelves in Campbell Hall. This call goes out to all church members. Join us in helping others, and thanks!



“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

READ JOHN 10: 1-10 where Jesus boldly stated, "I Am the Door . In verse 9, we read "Truly, truly, I say to you, I Am the Door of the sheep; if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, & will go in & out & find pasture." Over & over in the Bible we (you & I) are compared to sheep. This is not a flattering statement. Do you know why?

It's because you won't find a dumber animal than sheep. Dogs & cats can be trained, but you'll never go to a circus & buy a ticket to see a trained sheep; They have very poor eyesight. They have no common sense. Left to their own, they're liable to walk right into a stream & drown. They are very fearful of running water simply because of their heavy wool & cannot stay afloat. Sheep are also prone even to walk off a cliff & plummet to their death.

We are different from sheep in at least one way; we worry. Sheep are too dumb even to worry because they don't have much to think with. They can't take care of themselves, but we can. But there are times when we're put into circumstances we can't manage.

It is also true that you either have or will have worries in life you simply can't resolve. It could be any number of things, & since we all have something to be concerned about on life's highways, let us draw near to the One who is the answer, (JN. 10:11). Remember, it was Jesus Who said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His Life for the sheep (you & me). And sheep need not fear when The Good Shepherd is near.

Do you know the difference between a cowboy & a shepherd? A cowboy "drives or herds cattle", but a shepherd "leads" sheep. When Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal & kill & destroy (Jn. 10:10), He is referring to Satan (Devil). Do you wonder if you're headed in the right direction with your life or, with the "decision" you're about to make? Remember that the Good Shepherd will guide you to the right places (ps. 23), but Satan will drive you to the wrong places.

A group of tourists visiting the Holy Land passed by a flock of sheep being driven into town. The tourists were taking pictures, & one of them asked the guide, "I thought the shepherd led the sheep from the back?" The guide said, "That's not the shepherd, that's the butcher." That's the position Satan will always take in your life, driving you, shoving you from the rear with reminders of your past, filling you with guilt & anxiety, riddling you with fear & uncertainties in the present, whispering to you worries about the future.

But you know what? Jesus will make you to lie down in green pastures, & He'll lead you beside the still waters. Two things make a shepherd "good". He always leads the sheep where they "need" to go, & He always gives the sheep what they "need" to have. And that's why following Jesus is truly the Good Life. When you are in a difficulty,

Jesus will get you where you need to be. And when you are desperate, Jesus will give you what you "need" to have.

In the days when Jesus walked upon this earth, a shepherd who embarked on a long journey with a flock of sheep was considered successful if he arrived with more than 50% of the flock. Back then, that world was full of dangers: disease, poisoned grass, bad water, wild animals. But that's why Jesus is a "One-Of-A-Kind" Shepherd. When Jesus started with a hundred sheep, He ends up with a hundred. He doesn't lose any. Jesus always wants & invites YOU to make HIM the GOOD SHEPHERD in your life and become part of His flock forever. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY! Love Ya! - Rex



CHURCH FINANCIALS

Year to Date Expenditures: \$94,410.29

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

JOGGERS UPDATE

When You Are JOGGING, You Need to Increase Your Distance -- So On July 26th We Ventured South to Macaroni Grill. If You Have a Need for a Private Party, You Might Check Them Out. At 12:45, We Almost Had the Place to Ourselves. With Pat and Eddie and Audra and Bob, We Managed to Have Our Bakers Dozen in Attendance and Collected \$32.

August 2nd, Found Us Back at Firehouse Subs. We Were Able to Seat 14 of Us Together. It Was Very Nice to Have Gilbert and Charlie Larson Join Us. Hope You Can Join Us Again Soon. Twenty-Seven Dollars Was Collected, Bringing Our Total to \$216.53.

This Sunday, August 9th After "Cookies", We Are Having a Potluck Picnic. Hope You Can Bring a Picnic Food and Join Us Outside at the Searching Disciple Picnic Tables. If You Have a Lawn Chair, Please Bring it if You Can. If the Weather Is TOO Hot or Wet, We Will Stay Inside. HOPE YOU CAN ALL JOIN US.

August 16th, Bob and I Will Be Out of Town, So Carol Vann Will Be Your Leader. Let Her Know If You Have a Suggestion of a Place You Would Like to Go to Eat.

Have a Great Week



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



A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to thank Jo Rudkin, Alice Goff, and Anita Minsheu for helping me clean the nursery and the freezer. We disinfected every toy in the nursery by either washing or wiping down with Clorox wipes. The furniture was cleaned also. Again, please remember if you put anything in the freezer or refrigerator, please use it or take it with you when you leave. They are not storage facilities for everyone.

Thank you ladies again, Jackie Watts

Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: David Zickwolf, Joyce Luke, Rex Heavin, Marjorie Willard, CaraLee Dickerson, Opal Seals, Jeanne Roebuck.

Requests for Family and Friends: Delores Stockwell, friend of Susie Arnold; Joyce Campbell's son, David; Geoff Curtis; Jim & Lucy Walkers grandson Caden; Rex & Irene's granddaughter, Lori.

Those in Grief: The Bradley Family on the passing of Bill; The family of Susan Winter, Carol Vann's friend, on her passing.

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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 9
8:30 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
12:30 JOGgers Picnic Potluck
Monday - August 10
7:00 Boy Scouts
Tuesday - August 11
7:00 Board Meeting
Wednesday - August 12
7:00 Bible Study
Sunday - August 16
8:30 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
12:30 JOGgers
Monday - August 17
2:00 Newsletter Deadline
7:00 Sarah
7:00 Boy Scouts
Tuesday - August 18
12:30 Ruth/Rebecca
Wednesday - August 19
8:00 am JCCB
7:00 Bible Study

MEALS ON WHEELS

August 11: Glen & Dixie Wheaton
August 18: Linda & Gary Ruffin

Watch for the next
newsletter
the week of Aug 19, 2015

