



Vol. LV
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August 31, 2019

Minister
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Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh

Secretary
Patty Harper

SERVICES:
SUNDAYS:
8:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30 a.m.
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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,

This weekend is Labor Day Weekend, an unofficial signal of the end of summer, and the coming of fall. Though summer won't officially end until September 22nd, we recognize the changing of the seasons. We have had some wet, cooler weather lately, the kids have returned to school, and the pools have closed. In the church as well, our cycle turns to the fall; to Harvester's backpacks and Thanksgiving Cornucopia. And to stewardship.

Fall is when we conduct our annual stewardship campaign. We plan our 2020 budget, and we ask each of you to consider what you give to the church, and what you might give next year. This time of year we discuss tithes and offerings, commitments and contributions, and pledges. Pledges are promises of what you will give. Tithes represent your regular consistent giving, while offerings go above and beyond your normal amount, (For Make-a-Difference or Christmas Families for instance). These monetary resources support the work and mission of the church. We could not do the many ministries we do without your financial support.

Matthew 6:3-4 says. "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will

reward you." Here at MCC, the only people that see your pledge, tithe, or offering are our Financial Secretaries and Treasurer. As your pastor, I do not see any of these figures, and I don't want to see them. It is important to me that the care and pastoral leadership I provide isn't influenced by knowing what a person gives (or doesn't give). But just because I don't want to know what amount you give doesn't mean I don't care about your giving.

Bringing an offering or tithe before God is an important piece of spirituality. We are in relationship with God, and what we give reflects our cognizance and thanksgiving for that relationship. As Disciples we offer our whole lives to Jesus, and the pledge or tithe is a symbol of that total offering. We give back to God because we recognize our blessings.

As we head into fall now, and we turn our attention to Chiefs games and baseball playoffs, raking leaves and pumpkin patches, let us also turn our attention to our giving. What do I give? What will I give next year? Does my giving adequately reflect my relationship with God? As we prepare for the coming of 2020 and MCC's role in mission and ministry, let us consider our giving prayerfully and honestly.

God Bless,
Mark



MEALS ON WHEELS

September 3: Jim Owens &
Pat Reed
September 10: Wendy &
Francis Shafer

“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

Subject: Interesting Piece of history. Sub-
ject: “THE SONGWRITER”

Back in the 1950's there was a well known radio Host/Comedian/Song Writer in Hollywood named Stuart Hamblen who was noted for his drinking, womanizing, partying, etc. One of his bigger hits at the time was “I wont' go huntin' with you Jake, but I'll go chasin' women.” One day , along came a young preacher holding a tent revival. Hamblen had him on his radio show presumably to poke fun at him. In order to gather more material for the show, Hamblin showed up at one of the revival meetings.

Early in the service the preacher announced, “There is one man in the audience who is a big fake. There were probably others who thought the same thing, but Hamblen was convinced that he was the one the preacher was talking about (some would call that conviction), but he was having none of that.

Still the words continued to haunt him until a couple of nights later he showed up drunk at the preacher's hotel door around 2 a.m. demanding that the preacher pray for him! But the preacher refused, saying, “This is between you and God and I'm not going to get in the middle of it.” But he did invite Stuart in and they talked until about 5 a.m. at which point Stuart dropped to his knees and with tears, cried out to God. But that is not the end of the story. Stuart quit drinking, quit chasing women, quit everything that was fun. Soon he began to lose favor with the Hollywood crowd.

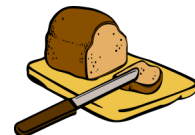
He was ultimately fired by the radio station when he refused to accept a beer company as a sponsor. Hard times were upon him. He tried writing a couple of “Christian “songs but the only one that had much success was “This Old House,” written for his friend Rosemary Clooney. As he continued to struggle, a long-time friend named John took him aside and told him, “....all your troubles started when you 'got religion', was it worth it all?”

Stuart answered simply, “Yes.” Then his friend asked, “You liked your booze so much, don't you ever miss it?” And his answer was, “No.” John then said, “I don't understand how you could

give it up so easily.” And Stuart's response was, “It's no big secret. All things are possible with God.” To this Stuart's old pay John said, “That's a catchy phrase. You should write a song about it.” And as they say, the rest is history. The song Stuart wrote was “IT IS NO SECRET.” - It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you. With arms wide open, He'll welcome you. It is no secret, what God can do....By the way,,....the friend was John Wayne. And the young preacher who refused to pray for Stuart Hamblen? That was Billy Graham!

God loves you one and all, and so do we!

Rex & Irene



ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

Please note, these are upcoming Sundays when we will worship together at 10:00AM.

August 31 (Labor Day Weekend)
October 20 OR 27 (Congregational Meeting, will be set by board)
December 1 (Thanksgiving weekend)
December 22
December 29



WELCOME ROACH FAMILY

Bruce and Katie Roach joined MCC on July 28th, along with their one-year-old son, Samuel.

They live at:
6119 Roger Dr, Shawnee, KS 66203
Phone number is 913-909-7470.
Please update your directory.



ATTENTION SHOPPERS

Thank you so much for your awesome support with School Supplies. We really did well this year. Had extra to contribute. Also, thanks for the can tabs. I delivered a big bag full to Merriam-Park last week.

It seems early, but our service for Sept. and Oct. is Books and Hats & Gloves for the JCCB. Books are always available, and hats and gloves will be coming out real soon. Only 16 more Fridays until Christmas. LOL

Our CWF/DWM will be hosting the Regional Evening Meeting at 6:00 PM on Thurs., Sept. 26th. Every lady in the church is a member and I hope all of you will sign up to bring a salad and come to enjoy the program and food. Men are invited too. I know the program will be interesting.

Thanks again for your continued support,
Joyce Luke
Treasurer & Service Chair



REVISION, PLEASE READ

SAVE THE DATE

REGIONAL EVENING DWM 9/26/19
At MCC

The ladies of MCC will host the Regional Evening DWM on September 26th. We would like everyone help to support us in this event. I am sorry to report that Karen Yount will NOT be giving the program this month but she will next month. Our speaker will be Sylvia Terry, President Shawnee Community Services. We are planning to have salads, garlic bread and desserts. Please plan to help us out and everyone (Men and women) are invited to come. We will put out a more detailed signup sheet after our meeting on September 3.

Thank you,
Jackie Watts, President
CWF/DWM

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for cards, calls and prayers. Your thoughts and prayers have helped SO MUCH.

Thanks again,
Dixie Wheaton

HOLIDAY OF HOPE TICKETS

The church has received two complimentary tickets to the Johnson County Christmas Bureau's Holiday of Hope Benefit on September 27, 2019 at 6:00PM.

This dinner and benefit features an open bar, appetizers, dinner, music, performance art and an auction. All proceeds support the Christmas Bureau's ongoing work with families at Christmas in Johnson County.

I am unable to attend due to a wedding. If anyone else would like to attend, and represent Merriam Christian Church and our partnership and work with the JCCB, please let me know. We would love to have someone go on behalf of the church.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE COMMUNION KITS?

We are missing a couple of our communion kits we use for outside communion. These small, burgundy or black boxes hold a small container for juice and bread, and several plastic communion cups. If you know where these might be, and are able to return them for continued use, we would be most appreciative, Thanks!



Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Joe Myers, Opal Seals, Harold Leakey, Dixie Wheaton, Don Rudkin, Lucy & Jim Walker, Anita Minshew

Requests for Family and Friends:

Patty Harper's daughter & son-in-law,
Alice & Luke Braddock
The Communities of El Paso & Dayton
Francis Shafer's grand-stepson, Kyle & his wife
Cynthia Gross
Paul & Alice Goff's grandson, Adam Awad
Joyce Campbell's brother, Louis Schibel
Irene & Rex heavin's daughter-in-law,
Nadine Wise
Chris Hill
Pat Reed's friend, Carol Greer
Flo Biehl's daughter-in-law Cari Biehl's
Grandmother
Bob Pape's friend, Pat Gantt
Heather Vann's provider, Pat Sensenich
Heather Waite's friend, Diane Wilson
Joyce Campbell's niece, Julie Marshall

Praises:

Connie Hennigh's daughter Christy on her marriage to Garland Johnson
Tyshawn Bryant received a Star Award!
Donna Thomas had 2 new great-grand nephews born into the family
Emily & Brett Slack on their marriage

Those in Grief:

Liz Spiegel and family on the passing of Merrill Pam Boyd's daughter-in-law, Susan Vandeline on the passing of her mother
Family of Erin Langhofer on her passing
Jeanne Bryant's daughter-in-law on the passing of her aunt.
The family of Laretha Tate on her passing
The family of David Warmouth on his passing
The family of Steven Allen on his 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 - September 1 - One Service Sunday
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
Monday - September 2 - Labor Day
Office Closed
Tuesday - September 3
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB
7:00 Committee Meetings
Wednesday - September 4
9:00-7:00 DS Bus Lines-CH
6:30-8:30 Cohort-LIB
Thursday - September 5
9:30 DWM-CH
Sunday - September 8
8:30 Early Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
2:00-5:00 Tall Oaks
Monday - September 9
9:00-12:00 Finance-LIB
Tuesday - September 10
7:00 Board Meeting
Friday - September 13
12:00 Newsletter Deadline

SEND A CARD

This month, let's send a card or a note to Roger Hawk. Roger isn't able to come worship with us on Sundays anymore, but he still keeps in contact and prays for the church daily.

Drop him a line and let him know the church loves and misses him and is keeping him and his family in our prayers.

His address is:
5926 Hadley
Merriam, KS 66202



Watch for the next Newsletter the week of September 14, 2019. *Submissions for publication may be edited for size, clarity, and tone.*

