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Interim Sabbatical
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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 and family of Merriam Christian Church-

I left the Board Meeting this week energized and excited about what is happening here at MCC. Why? Here are a few points.

Passion for Kids: Amy DeCoursey and Christina Stokes for attending the Children's Worship and Wonder Training last month and for being so inspired by it. The passion and vision of these two has led to another outpouring of generosity here as well (one of those fruits of the Spirit we've been hearing about). Outreach voted to supplying our Worship and Wonder with its first batch of materials to take the youth through Advent. And others were asking at the meeting how they could invest in this program that serves the next generation of church. I really feel the Spirit moving in this endeavor.

Making a Difference in Merriam: Regional Minister Bill Rose-Heim attended our meeting. Afterward he expressed how in awe he was of all the mission and outreach that goes on from here. This is not a common thing in all churches, yet it is a desire for many in my generation when they are seeking a church home: to connect to a community of faith that is feeding the hungry, serving the poor, living out the way of Jesus Christ. Bill was excited to go out into other churches in our region to share the story of the good work MCC does in our community—both on its own and in community partnerships.

Connecting with Our Diverse Neighbors: Finally, I am excited

about our relationship with the Dialogue Institute of Kansas City, which is hosting MCC for brunch on Saturday October 28th at 10:30am. The mission of the organization is to promote mutual understanding, respect and cooperation among people of diverse faiths and cultures by creating opportunities for direct communication and meaningful shared experiences. In times like these, with so much division, we need spaces and then people who are willing and able to meet—human to human. If you would like to attend, please sign up in front of the office.

Thank you for all that you do and all that you are. Thank you for reflecting the way of Jesus Christ in the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Casey

MEMBER PROFILES



Jeanne Bryant

Ten Things About Me:

1. Favorite color is pink.
2. Like to buy shoes
3. Like to shop
4. Like to cook
5. Like coffee
6. Hobby is spoiling grandkids
7. Like to help people
8. Like to read
9. Enjoy planting & caring for flowers
10. Have 2 brothers



BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH DAY

The next Bring-A-Friend day will be October 22nd. We ask that you welcome a friend, family member or neighbor to join us that day for worship.



“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

Please note: The following four articles are taken from the book, “100 Bible Verses That Every One Should Know by Heart,” by Rovert J. Morgan.

Article #1 “BEGINNINGS” : (The Bible’s Fantastic Four)

1. Genesis 1:1; “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”...

Scripture begins with these ten words. This is the bedrock of the Bible, the first, earliest, and most irreducible foundation for the remaining 31 thousand verses of God’s Word. Genesis 1:1 encompasses the totality of Truth. Without it, there’s nothing but despair. With it, there’s everything we need. If this is true, everything in the rest of the Bible is plausible and logically consistent. Genesis 1:1 tells us that god “IS,” that He “Creates,” and that He “Speaks;” and this is the basis of all clear thinking and real Hope....

Genesis 1:1 gives us Roots. We’re not accidental blobs of dying chemicals mysteriously evolving from primordial sludge without purpose or meaning. We have a past rooted in the Glory of God whose Image we bear. We’re wonderfully made and placed in an environment fined-tuned for our needs. The book of Genesis gives us the history of Creation, sin, the beginnings of human society, the wondrous plan of redemption introduced by God. If you discard Genesis 1:1, you abandon the roots and reality of humanity on earth. By removing this text from conscious thought, we lose all inherent law in the universe, all intrinsic bases for self-image, all purpose to life, and any and all hope in the human heart....

Genesis 1:1 gives us routes. If we have a past, we have a future. If we were created in God’s Image, we have Eternal potential. If we have an intelligent Creator Who knows and loves us, He must have a purpose and plan for Time and Eternity. Without him we’re dying embers in a dying universe with no ultimate significance. But with Him we have Roots in a dignified Past and Routes to a great future....

Samuel Wesley, younger brother of John and Charles, was born February 10, 1690, but for about five years he didn’t speak a word. Then one day he hid under a table while his mother, Susanna, looked for him. Finally, he cried, “Here I am, mother.” He had learned to talk! Susanna taught him to read, using Genesis 1:1, which he quickly memorized. Soon he had memorized Genesis 1:1-10. it’s no wonder he later wrote the hymn: “Hail, Father whose creating call Unnumbered worlds attend; Jehovah, comprehending all, Whom none can comprehend.” The following is a very special quote as a part of the article I have already shared with you. It is a quote shared with all of us. In fact, it is a gift, and I hope you like it. The thought and writing comes from Astronaut James Irwin...

“The Earth reminded us of a Christmas Tree Ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble (a beautiful marble) the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart.” Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the Creation of God and the Love of God.

God loves you and so do I!
Rex

VISITATION REPORT.....

Gene & Cara Lee Dickerson—found them going for a walk around the halls with their walkers; went to their room to visit, they were happy to see us, pleasant mood and quite alert today; had communion and prayer which they always appreciate; showed them pictures of the refurbished front doors of the church; they are always glad to hear about their church family and invited us back to visit soon.

Dallas Davis—Dallas was “wandering the halls” in his wheelchair, as the nursing staff says; he was in a good mood; visited about designing and remodeling the Kroh’s house, and figuring the pitch and length of struts for a building (Dallas could do it in his head); filled him in on some of the church members and showed him pictures of the refurbished front doors of the church, which he was very interested in. He thanked us for coming.

Opal Wylie—Opal was in the hall listening to the activities director play guitar and lead singing some gospel songs; Opal along with other residents was singing along, clapping, and enjoying the activity; she was smiling and happy to see us; said she was waiting for someone to take her for ice cream; showed her pictures of the refurbished front doors of the church. We didn’t stay long as she was tuned into the singing and playing.

Jim Owens---caught up with Jim having lunch on Friday, he was in the Rehab facility at Lakeview, doing a lot of walking; he has done very well and we are happy to report now he is back “home” in his own place and gaining back his strength after his hospital stay. Hope to see him in church soon.

Jennifer Abbott—Jennifer was in church last Sunday. We are so glad to see her out and around. She is anticipating surgery on October 25. Keep praying for Jennifer for good results and healing.

JUST A REMINDER....

Please have all articles for the Newsletter in the Church Office by noon on Friday before the Newsletter is due to be printed on Saturday. All articles received after that time will go in the next Newsletter. Send to merriamchristian@gmail.com



Watch for the next newsletter
the week of October 28, 2017



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Merriam Christian Church is having a Christmas Workshop for the MCC children. Everyone remembers Gingerbread Cookie Town and the many wonderful memories. Now we can all look forward to taking those memories and building a new Christmas tradition. We need your help and support.

The workshop will be Saturday, December 9th, 9 am to 11:30 a.m. There is a Volunteer sheet outside of the office where you can sign up to help. Registration forms available for children wanting to attend on the table in front of the office. The cost is \$ 5.00 and please put the completed sheet in the tray on the table in front of the office. If you would like to contribute to the cost of putting on the workshop, you can make a check out to MCC, and on the note line, print *Christmas Workshop*.

We are still in the planning stage but we would like to tell you about some of our ideas for the New Workshop

- We are planning on around 30 children
- The story of Christmas and its significance in our lives will be shared.
- We will have a cookie decorating station manned by Carole Prentice and Michelle Land and the children will get to keep their own cookies
- The children will have a premade gingerbread house to decorate and take home
- The children will be able to shop for their parents, siblings etc.
- We have some other activities for the children, but they are still in the planning stage.

We will constantly keep you informed on our plans for our new Christmas Workshop for our MCC Children. Thank you

NEEDED

- * If anyone has shoe boxes or similar-sized boxes in EXCELLENT condition, please leave them for Children's Worship & Wonder in the first classroom (Searching Disciples).
- * If you have any unused Christmas decorations in good condition, please consider donating for the Christmas Workshop on December 9th. Donations can be left in the Bride's Room at the northeast end of Campbell Hall.

MEALS ON WHEELS

October 17: Glen & Dixie Wheaton
October 24: Linda & Gary Ruffin

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

October 15, 2017

To vote on the new budget for 2018, Please plan to attend!

Thank You!

BASKETS FOR TALL OAKS GALA

Thank you everyone for the wonderful donations for the Cancer/Chemo Baskets. I am in the process of completing them and delivering in the next few days. I will take pictures and post.

Thank you all for your generosity.
Connie Hennigh

BLOOD DRIVE

As always, you came through for the Blood Drive last week, and as always, THANK YOU SO MUCH! We had 30 donors this time - some first time donors, and one doubles donor. In all, they collected 26 units toward the 580 units they need each day to help those in need. I am very grateful, and so proud of you!

God Bless!
Pat Reed, Chairman



We would like to offer a huge thank you to the Outreach committee, Carole Prentice, and anyone who has contributed to the Make a Difference fund. They have graciously offered to purchase the Advent kit for Children's Worship & Wonder. We are very grateful and look forward to starting this program during the Advent season!

-Amy DeCoursey & Christina Stokes



CHICKEN SPAGHETTI

- 2-3 Medium Onions - Chopped
- 5-6 Cloves of Garlic - Chopped
- 3-4 cans Rotel Tomatoes
- 1 Can - Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 lb - Sharp Cheddar Cheese - Grated
- 12 oz - Spaghetti (1 package)
- 6-7 Boneless Chicken Breasts - cooked & chopped

Cook chicken, seasoned with salt and pepper. Save the broth.

Sauté Onions & Garlic in oil in a large skillet. Add tomatoes, mushroom soup, chicken, and cheese. Simmer 30 minutes on low heat, stirring constantly or it will stick! Cook spaghetti in chicken broth. Mix drained spaghetti with chicken mixture. Bake in a 9x13 pan at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

You can substitute 1 can of chopped tomatoes with 2-3 cans of Rotel, depending on how spicy you like it. You can also substitute cream of chicken soup for the cream of mushroom if you prefer.

I usually need to add a couple of cans of chicken broth to cook the chicken in. I also add a little grated cheese on top the last couple of minutes.



Prayer List



Those Needing Prayers: Jennifer Abbott, Jim Owens, Francis Shafer, Rex Heavin, Anita Collins, Mel & Susan Cunningham

Requests for Family and Friends:

Wendy Manthe's husband, Stephen
Tami Bryan, Linda Ruffin's friend
Genie McCrosky, Beverly McDonald's friend
Chuck Motter, Son of Rev. Ryan Motter

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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.

DWM NEWS

Seven women met on October 5th for our October meeting. Ann Dickerson reported a balance of \$4,513.16 in the treasury. Seventeen women attended group meetings in September. Alice Goff reported 8 cards sent, and she reminded everyone that we need to let her know when someone is sick so she can send a card. Eight ladies attended the evening CWF at New Song Church the end of September.

Hats and Gloves are being collected for the Christmas Bureau. The tree is in the hallway to hang the items on. Ann gave us information on Heart-to-Heart, in Lenexa, to help pack hygiene kits for all the hurricane victims. The phone number, if you would like to help, is 913-764-5200. We also discussed bringing items for the Cornucopia and Christmas baskets.

The CWF Christmas program will be on December 7th at 6 p.m. The Seeds of Faith will have the program.

We then moved our discussion to next year and changes for the CWF Booklet. We also discussed possibilities for the President and Treasurer positions.

Jackie Watts
Program Chair

UPDATE

Just wanted my church friends to know that after 24 days, I am out of the hospital, rehab and am home. Got home this afternoon, and the feeling is wonderful. Still have a little ways to go, so will be staying close to home for awhile. My sincere thanks to everyone for kind thoughts, prayers, calls and cards. You are all a very strong support during difficult times.

In Christian love,
Jim



Calendar

Sunday - October 15 - **ONE SERVICE SUNDAY**

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
Congregational Meeting

Monday - October 16

7:00 Sarah

Tuesday - October 17

12:30 Esther

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday - October 18

10:00-12:00 Regional-LIB

1:30-3:30 Regional-LIB

6:00 JCCB-LIB

7:30 JCCB-CH

Thursday - October 19

11:30-1:30 Regional -LIB

1:00 Our Gang

7:00 Cubs

Friday - October 20

8:30-6:00 DS Bus Lines

Sunday - October 22 - **BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY**

8:30 Early Worship

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

Tuesday - October 24

7:00 Cubs-Classroom

Wednesday - October 25

9:30-11:30 Regional-LIB

Thursday - October 26

6:00 DWM Regional Evening Meeting

Friday - October 27

12:00 Newsletter Deadline



OUR GANG CLUB

The October meeting of OUR CLUB GANG will be this coming Thursday, October 19th at 1:00 p.m. in Campbell Hall. The activity will be board games, so bring your favorite board game to play, and some snacks to share and join in the FUN FUN FUN!!!

The Membership committee is hosting an *extension* of the existing OGC group to cater to those who are not able to attend weekday gatherings. ALL are welcome! This event will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 5pm in Campbell Hall. Please bring an appetizer or finger food to share (think tailgate party), as well as a deck of cards or your favorite game to play. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to come along with you. If you have any questions, email Amy DeCoursey at ymarettes@gmail.com. We are looking forward to this fellowship together!

